Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

75¢

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**WEDNESDAY** SEPTEMBER 16, 2020
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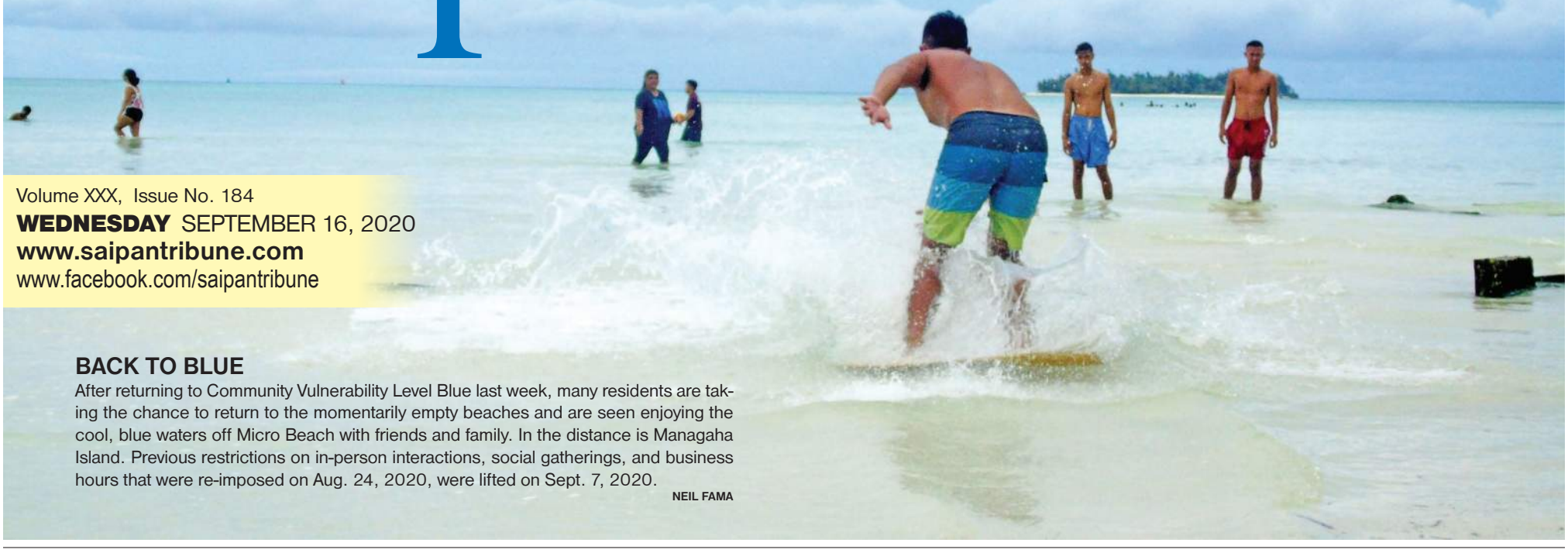
**21,584 ballots for Nov. 3 elections set to arrive. PAGE 2**
**PSS told to penny-pinch for the next few months. PAGE 5**



**BACK TO BLUE**
After returning to Community Vulnerability Level Blue last week, many residents are taking the chance to return to the momentarily empty beaches and are seen enjoying the cool, blue waters off Micro Beach with friends and family. In the distance is Managaha Island. Previous restrictions on in-person interactions, social gatherings, and business hours that were re-imposed on Aug. 24, 2020, were lifted on Sept. 7, 2020.
NEIL FAMA

# 17 nurses face possible exit

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Seventeen licensed practical nurses and one radiological technician are facing the possibility of being sent back to their home countries as their immigration papers have expired, which means they only have 10 days to obtain a reprieve or be forced to exit the CNMI.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said the immigration papers of the nurses and x-ray technician expired yesterday, Sept. 15. However, with a 10-day grace period, Muña is hoping that something will be done before the month ends.

Muña

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is pinning its hope on a letter that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wrote U.S. Labor Secretary of Eugene Scalia, where he asked Scalia to help expedite the process and grant of Temporary Labor Certificates for the 17 LPNs and radiologi-

See NURSES on Page 4

## IPI's fate in the crosshairs

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, the Commonwealth Casino Commission, the Legislature, and the Department of Finance need to sit down to decide on what is the ultimate goal and plan for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

When asked about at a radio news briefing last Friday about his position on IPI's request to postpone the payment of the $15.5 million casino license fee, Torres said that, based on his conversation with Manibusan, CCC, and the Legislature, he and any other entities have no authority to remove the amount or extend the payment time and, since the agreement with IPI is a partnership with the CNMI, Tor-

See IPI on Page 4

## Teacher departures leave schools scrambling to find replacements

By CASEY SMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS/REPORT FOR AMERICA

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)— With many teachers opting out of returning to the classroom because of the coronavirus, schools around the U.S. are scrambling to find replacements and in some places lowering certification requirements to help get substitutes in the door.

Several states have seen surges in educators filing for retirement or taking leaves of absence. The departures are straining staff in places that were dealing with shortages of teachers and substitutes even before the pandemic created an education crisis.

Among those leaving is Kay Orzechowicz, an English teacher at northwest Indiana's Griffith High School, who at 57 had hoped to teach for a few

See TEACHER on Page 4

## 2 COVID-19 deaths in Guam

Guam suffered successive blows yesterday with the death of two more patients from COVID-19-related complications, with the two deaths occurring just an hour and a half apart.

Guam's tally of COVID-19-related fatalities, which reached 26 last Sunday with Guam's youngest COVID-19 death, a 10-year-old boy, went up to 27 yesterday at approximately 3pm, when a 45-year-old female with underlying health conditions passed away at the Guam Memorial Hospital. She was initially admitted to GMH on Aug. 17 and subsequently tested positive for COVID-19.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guer-

See DEATHS on Page 4

**COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY**

**LEGEND:**
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

*Source: Office of the Governor*

**AT A GLANCE**

As of 6pm, Sept. 15, 2020

| GUAM | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 1,891 | 36 | 1,927 |
| Recovered | 1,118 | 156 | 1,274 |
| Active | 591 | 36 | 627 |
| Deaths | 26 | 2 | 28 |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested | | | 44,050 |

| SAIPAN | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 61 | 0 | 61 |
| Deaths | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested | | | 14,375* |

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

## INSIDE

**BUSINESS**
PIC's The Galley is now open for lunch that gives the public more lunch options.
PAGE 11

**NATION**
President Donald Trump defies state emergency orders by campaigning in battleground states.
PAGE 12

**LIFE & STYLE**
Chadwick Boseman is buried near his South Carolina hometown six days after he died.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

# Local

**$5K FOR 5 YEARS**
The Lady Diann Torres Foundation continues its $5K for 5 Years celebration with a donation of $500 to Karidat.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROMANTIC
Staycation
PACKAGE
ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
Romantic Staycation SPECIAL PACKAGE
PACK YOUR WEEKEND BAG AND Treat Yourself TO A ROMANTIC Staycation AT AQUA RESORT CLUB
TREAT YOUR SPECIAL SOMEONE
Deluxe Garden View
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Garden View Room
*Free Upgrade to our Oceanview Room (Upon Availability)
Romantic Dinner for Two at Kevin's
Choose from our Two 4-Course Set Menus options
Enjoy complimentary welcome glass of Sparkling Wine
Complimentary Early Check-In @ 10:00am
Complimentary Late Check-Out @ 5:00pm
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
10% Off Couple's Massages at ARC Spa
Special Package! $180 Per Night +15% Tax
MAKE IT EXTRA SPECIAL
Oceanfront Suite
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Romantic Dinner for Two at Kevin's
Choose from our Four 4-Course Set Menus options
Enjoy complimentary welcome glass of Sparkling Wine
Complimentary Early Check-In @ 10:00am
Complimentary Late Check-Out @ 5:00pm
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
10% Off all ARC Café Items
10% Off Couple's Massages at ARC Spa
Special Package! $290 Per Night +15% Tax
For Reservations & More Information
Please call us at (670)322-1234
ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
*Special Rate valid for stay duration within September 7-30, 2020
*Reservations available on Friday and Saturday only
*Benefits may not be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash
*Benefits may not be combined with any other specials or promotions.
*All benefits should be used during stay duration checked-in times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
*Valid CNMI or Guam resident ID required for special promotional rate

# 21,584 ballots for Nov. 3 elections set to arrive

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Villagomez

The 21,584 ballots that a Nebraska company printed for the Nov. 3 general elections are already in Guam and would be shipped to Saipan last night, Tuesday, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez.

CEC was expecting the ballots to be here last Monday, Sept. 14, as Sept. 19, Saturday, is the target date to commence the early voting for the Northern Islands.

Villagomez said they are waiting for the Senate to pass a bill that the House of Representatives approved last week. That bill will allow early voting for Saipan and the Northern Islands to begin 21 days before the Nov. 3 general elections. Villagomez said this means that early voting for Saipan and Northern Islands should commence on Oct. 13 and not the original target date of Sept. 19.

**» CEC still waiting for Senate to pass bill changing election laws**

She said the bill also designates three polling places for early voting on Saipan.

Villagomez said they are not sure yet where those new polling places will be but they have identified the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Dandan Elementary School, Tanapag Elementary School, or the Legislature on Capital Hill as the polling places for early voting. "But we cannot do that yet until they passed the bill," she said.

Villagomez said early voting usually starts a week before election day, but with the new bill it's going to start 21 days before then. There will also be early voting on Tinian and Rota.

Villagomez said they are still checking if the Rota Northern Marianas College is available as a polling place for early voting. On Tinian, they are looking elsewhere as they heard that Tinian NMC "is broken."

Villagomez also stated that they are already accepting requests for absentee voting for those who are going to be off-island during election day.

She said voters who want to avail of absentee voting will have to fill out a request form. "They can do it online, download, then they can email it to us, fax over to us, or hand-carry it to us," she said.

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol told members of the House of Representatives during last week's House session that they will try to send the absentee ballots by mid- to end of September.

The House passed a consultative version of the Senate bill that suspends certain CNMI election laws for the Nov. 3 general elections to mitigate public health risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bill, which was introduced by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), will adjust the early voting time and add more polling places. It will extend the hours of operations for early voting and election day.

The legislation will also authorize the CEC to collect absentee ballots seven days before the general election and 14 days after.

The bill will give the CEC flexibility to make changes to the election procedures if necessary to mitigate the public health risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Rota and Tinian, under the bill, the period of early voting by personal appearance begins on the seventh day preceding an election and extends through the last day before election day up to 5pm.

# SCC now accepting applications for its scholarship program

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is excited to launch its 2020 Scholarship Program, with 12 lucky students receiving a one-time award of $1,000 to help defray the cost of their education.

This opportunity will be granted to six recently graduated high school students and six postsecondary students on Saipan who display academic excellence, extracurricular success, leadership force, and volunteerism within our community.

The scholarship program is funded mainly by the money raised during the 2020 Scholarship Golf Tournament.

"The Saipan Chamber recognizes that the cost of postsecondary education is substantial, and with the additional barriers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important we continue to financially support the pursuit of higher education in our community," the Chamber said in a statement.

To meet the needs of island workforce and the promotion of the community, preferential considerations will be made for those who meet the following criteria:

■ Students pursuing careers with the goal of solving problems related to Saipan.

■ Students attending local institutions of higher education: Northern Marinas College and Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

■ Students interested in working within specific industries where we need U.S. qualified workers. The specific industries have been identified based on the CNMI Department of Labor's 2020 data surrounding job vacancies. The full list of industry priorities can be found at www.saipanchamber.com/scholarship-program.

The SCC Scholarship Program is open to eligible students that are (a) 2020 high school graduates, ongoing college students (NMC), and ongoing vocational education students (NMTI). SCC recognizes the delay of the Scholarship Program and some students who are on their first semester in college in off-island institutions are encouraged to submit their application should they meet the requirements for 2020 high school students.

**COVID-19 measures**

■ Applications: Official SCC Scholarship Packets outlining eligibility requirements for all student levels will be available at on the scholarship webpage at www.saipanchamber.com/scholarship-program.

■ No hard copies will be made available.

■ Submission of applications: In an effort to stop the spread, SCC will accept all applications through their online portal at www.saipanchamber.com/scholarship-program.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must complete the application in its entirety and submitted on or before 8am on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020. For more information about the 2020 Scholarship Program, call the SCC office at 670-234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

# Rota's ESFDB sees almost zero enrollment

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, a Catholic school on Rota, has had nearly zero enrollments, leading to the discontinuation of the academic year.

During a recent Board of Education's special meeting, vice chair Herman Atalig raised concerns about the untouched funds that could potentially accommodate repairs for other schools on Rota that were caused by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Should Rota get approved to move the funds from ESFDB to repair other schools, a total of $24,249 will be transferred. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program manager, confirmed the school's closure and assured that they will work with his program officer to "see how much flexibility they will give."

Under the Project Restart program, they approved $24,249 to go into ESFDB for repair and replacements but, with the school's closure, it seems unlikely that they will be doing any repairs.

Tinian board member Phillip Mendiola-Long also asked Thornburgh about the remaining balance of $376,390 in school repairs that haven't been touched as well.

According to Thornburgh, an assessment has to be done on what needs to be repaired in a school in order to be approved. However, the damage has to be the result of Super Typhoon Yutu.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency obligated 29 of 39 Public School System projects last June 3, but PSS has been unable to start work on these projects as it does not have the funds to cover the 10% cost share.

Mendiola-Long urged PSS to have someone from the Facilities Development Management assist the schools on Tinian because there are still damage from Super Typhoon Yutu that need to be fixed.

# Man allegedly assaults ex-wife over child tax

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A man was arrested for allegedly assaulting his former wife because she refused to sign for their children's child tax.

Eduardo Manahan, 51, was charged with two domestic violence charges after allegedly assaulting Xianhua Manahan, his former wife, because she did not want to sign their children's child tax in order for him to cash it.

Manahan has been released to a third-party custodian after posting $1,000 of his initial $5,000 bail and is scheduled for an arraignment on Sept. 21.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety officers responded to a domestic violence complaint on Aug. 28 at about 11:32am, at a residence behind XO Market in Gualo Rai.

Upon arriving at the scene, authorities met with the caller, a 17-year-old boy, who called to report that his father, Manahan, had hit his mother, Xianhua.

DPS officers learned from Xianhua that an argument that led to a physical altercation between herself and Manahan occurred in front of their children over a child tax check. The children even provided authorities with photos they took of Manahan assaulting Xianhua.

Xianhua told police that Manahan arrived at her home at about 11:50am and asked her to sign the child tax check but she refused. She told police that she refused to sign the check because she has custody of the children, adding that Manahan never even gave her the children's share of his stimulus payment after receiving it back in May.

After refusing to sign the check, the victim said she folded the check and hid it in her pants in her navel. This angered Manahan and he demanded the check be returned to him.

Manahan then allegedly grabbed both of the victim's biceps, squeezing them tightly, before turning her around to hold her wrists behind her back. He then used one of his hands to shove the victim's head downwards in the direction of her knees.

The victim said Manahan then told their son to get the check from her pocket. Manahan then let go of the victim but brought her back to the same position and tried, again, to retrieve the check. The victim then told her children to call the police.

After Manahan's failed attempts to retrieve the check, the victim said he picked up an electrical metal fan nearby and threw it on the ground, causing the metal blades to break.

In an interview with Manahan, he told police that he did get into an argument with Xianhua over the children's child tax. He said she stuffed the check in her pocket so he grabbed her in an attempt to take the check back and broke the fan because he was angry.

# TEACHER

From Page 1

more years. But she felt her school's leadership was not fully committed to ensuring proper social distancing and worried that not enough safety equipment would be provided for students and teachers.

Add the technology requirements and the pressure to record classes on video, and Orzechowicz said it "just wasn't what I signed up for when I became a teacher."

"Overall, there was just this utter disrespect for teachers and their lives," she said. "We're expected to be going back with so little." When school leaders said teachers would be "going back in-person, full throttle, that's when I said, 'I'm not doing it. No.'"

Teachers in at least three states have died after bouts with the coronavirus since the start of the new school year. It's unclear how many teachers in the U.S. have become ill with COVID-19, but Mississippi alone reported 604 cases among teachers and staff.

In cases where teachers are exposed to the virus, they could face pressure to return to the classroom. The Trump administration has declared teachers to be "critical infrastructure workers" in guidance that could give the green light to exempting them from quarantine requirements.

Throughout Indiana, more than 600 teacher retirements have been submitted since July, according to state data. Although the state gets most of its teacher retirements during the summer, surveys suggest more retirements than usual could happen as the calendar year progresses, said Trish Whitcomb, executive director of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association.

"I've gotten more (teachers) calling me back saying, 'Well, I'm going to go ahead and retire,'" Whitcomb said. "Some still wanted to go back in the classroom, but they didn't think the risk was worth it. They looked at their grandkids and the life they have, and I think they're saying, 'I'm just not going to do it.'"

In Salt Lake County, Utah, the state's most populated metropolitan area, more than 80 teachers have either resigned or retired early because of concerns about COVID-19 in schools. More than half of those happened in one of the county's five school districts, Granite School District. All of the district's teachers who left were fined $1,000 for failing to give 30 days' notice.

Mike McDonough, president of the Granite Education Association teachers union, said the departures stem from frustration over how the schools have reopened. In Granite, most students will return to in-person instruction for four days a week, and there are few opportunities for teachers to instruct solely online.

Some teachers waited until the last minute, hoping that the district would change its reopening plan. But checking out of the classroom was "the only way to keep themselves safe," he said.

"Teachers are still scared and overwhelmed," McDonough said. "I have heard from teachers that are just heartbroken to leave the classroom, but they didn't feel safe going back. They don't want that level of risk, and they have no other choice but to get out."

Education leaders in states including Arizona, Kansas, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Texas have said they are bracing for worsening teacher shortages as the pandemic drives away some educators.

# NURSES

From Page 1

cal technician. The 17 nurses include 13 on Saipan and four on Tinian. They are all Philippine nationals.

According to CHCC public information officer Lee Tenorio, CHCC's human resources is working as hard as it can to remedy the situation. Part of making sure that these 18 individuals are taken cared of means ensuring a smooth process if they do exit the CNMI.

To ensure that hospital operations are not adversely affected, Muña said they have a contingency plan in place should they not obtain the needed TLCs.

The 18 individuals have been on the island for many years and CHCC wants to be sure that they accommodate them and provide them relief so they could stay, Muña said, adding that the hospital is petitioning these 18 individuals for permanent resident status, so the hospital wants to make sure not to do anything that would prevent that from happening. She stated that it's a slow process and something they have to deal with in the midst of a pandemic. Muña said the petitioning process will still continue even when these personnel are in their home countries.

"Our relationship has not ended. …They've been here for years, [and] they don't have to feel this uncertainty all the time," said Muña. She added that as of right now, they're working hard to prevent them from leaving.

Should these 18 individuals actually exit the CNMI, the next available opening to get work visas in their home countries is March 2021, both Muña and Tenorio said.

# DEATHS

From Page 1

rero later issued a statement through the Joint Information Center. "As we mourn the passing of this woman, we must also remember her for the life she lived. To her family, friends, and those who cherished her, [first gentleman] Jeff [Cook], Lt. Gov. Josh [Tenorio], and I send our deepest condolences and sympathies," said Leon Guerrero. "What we are seeing among COVID-19 deaths across the nation are rapid declines in health, sudden deaths, and the inability to be with loved ones in their final moments. COVID-19 has changed the way we mourn—we can't grieve with family, we can't comfort each other, and we can't hold each other. I urge everyone to do what they need to do to prevent any more losses."

Later at 4:30pm, an 84-year-old male passed away also at GMH, making him Guam's 28th COVID-19-related fatality. The patient had underlying health conditions. He was initially admitted to GMH on Sept. 3 and tested positive for COVID-19 during initial work-up.

"Our grief continues as we lose another to COVID-19. Jeff, Lt. Gov. Josh, and I express our sincerest condolences and sympathies to his family and friends, and they will remain in our thoughts and prayers," said Leon Guerrero. "I know these announcements have taken their toll on us all, but I want you to know that you are not alone. The virus may be cruel, but it is not stronger than the love we have for each other. Our island must remain committed to protecting each other and keeping each other safe. That is the only way we can get through this."

### Construction resumes

After reviewing operational plans and inspecting construction facilities to ensure that COVID-19 mitigation measures were in place and the health of the workers were prioritized, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services issued a directive yesterday to authorize all construction companies to resume operations with the exception of those who were notified of a pending inspection, or need to submit additional documentation, before they may operate. This authorization was effective yesterday, Sept. 15. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

# IPI

From Page 1

res said would like to get the Legislature's take on the casino licensee's proposal. If the Legislature wants to approve IPI's request, then that's something that they would like to work with, together with the AG, and CCC.

"Because this is not just a one-time request, or one-time issue. It's a yearly issue. There's other issues that's pending with IPI," Torres said.

He said they would also like to know about IPI's goal in the next five years, considering their arrears not only to the government but also to some vendors.

"But, ultimately, just like every other companies, we would like to keep them here and continue doing business," the governor said.

At the same time, Torres said, every company needs to put in their share.

He said IPI is having a hard time and is asking for help. Torres said he, the Legislature, the attorney general, CCC, and the Division of Tax and Revenue have to sit down and see "where do we go from here."

At a recent meeting with members of the House of Representatives Gaming Committee, IPI officials disclosed that they have a $150-million funding commitment and that what they need is a strong partnership with the CNMI government and not a threat to revoke its exclusive casino license.

IPI chief executive officer Donald R. Browne said they have financial troubles but is still committed to the CNMI. "It's not the time to threaten to revoke somebody's license in the middle of a pandemic," said Browne.

CCC acting executive director Andrew Yeom recently filed a complaint against IPI over its failure to pay $15.5 million in annual casino license fee that was due last Aug. 12. On Aug. 26, 2020, Browne asked the CNMI government to be allowed to pay the $15.5 million in 2029 instead—the 15th year of the casino license.

Saying that IPI may be required to remain closed for the majority of this year due to the government-mandated shutdown, Browne also told Torres that they are also asking that the Commonwealth Casino Commission's $3 million regulatory fee be reduced to $1 million as the cessation of gaming requires less oversight.

Browne also stated that by allowing poker machines and e-gaming to operate outside of the casino, the CNMI is in violation of the exclusive license IPI holds.

**GRAND REOPENING** DONNA RIVERA

Guerrero siblings—from left, Juan Pan Guerrero, Noreen Guerrero, Annie G. Hayes, and Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan)—pose for the camera during the grand reopening of the Tan Marikita's Café last Monday after several months of renovation work.

# PSS told to penny-pinch for the next few months

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Public School System federal program manager Tim Thornburgh advised PSS to micromanage their expenditures and carefully manage the first tranche of the Education Stabilization Funds until the ratification of the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solution kicks in.

Thornburgh said that this week will be crucial because even if the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability, and Schools Act does pass (there's an opportunity for President Donald J. Trump to negotiate with House of Representatives members to pass a bill), it's highly unlikely because their main focus is the campaign trail, since it's the election season. Additionally, if no negotiation in Washington, D.C. takes place this week, Thornburgh says that PSS will not see the second tranche of the Education Stabilization Funds until February 2021.

Though there might be some hiccups with the process of passing the bill this week, Thornburgh assures that they are still actively pursuing part two of the Education Stabilization Funds. During the special Board of Education meeting last Sept. 11, Thornburgh reported that $105 billion of the proposed HEROES Act will be allocated to part two of the Education Stabilization Funds.

PSS received a total of $23.2 million in Education Stabilization Funds the first time it was issued under the $27.9 million CARES Act Education Stabilization Funds intended for the CNMI. Part 2 refers to the Education Stabilization Funds outlined in the HEROES Act.

Although Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has assured Thornburgh that the HEROES Act will pass the U.S. Congress, it is still a question of when it will be passed and put in place. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act with $3 trillion to support health and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill is now with the U.S. Senate, which notably failed to pass the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability, and Schools or HEALS Act.

According to Thornburgh, PSS expects to get at least $40 million from either bill, which will be helpful since PSS is low on funds. Additionally, this will help PSS "bridge a gap" between reduced local funding and what they would need for the next two years.

As for the money that is meant for student competitions, Thornburgh said that, since there might not be any off island competitions due to the pandemic, they're looking at the funds that haven't been spent yet so that they can allocate it for something else.

Additionally, Thornburgh said that they've authorized their technology director to put out a second bid for 2,000 Mi-Fi, a device that allows one to connect to the internet. As of today, PSS has approximately 3,000 Mi-Fis but there's a need for an extra 2,000, which will give PSS a total of 5,000.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

## AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (08/19/2020)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  - Letter from Dr. Grauman
VII. Director's Report
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
    - Pacific Health Inc. dba PHI PHARMACY IV
  B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
  A. [Proposed] Settlement Agreement on HCPLB Case No. 20-0001
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)**
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO LEASE PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 006 E 01 containing an area of approximately 2,877 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Unity Trade Service, Inc. The lists of officers for Unity Trade Service, Inc., are Gaudencio C. Macalinao, as President, Jacinta M. Macalinao, as Vice-President, Luzviminda M. Tolentino, as Secretary and Ronel Macalinao, as Authorized Representative.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. Ronel Macalinao.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operation of auto repair shop, sheet metal works, iron & machine shop & other related issues.

The term of the Public Land Lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, September 21, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

## NUTISIA NU INTENSIÓN NI PARA U MA'ATKILA TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha nå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ña ni para u na ma'atkila palu na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. Maseha håyi na pitsona siha gi halum pupbliku henerål siña muna'na'halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoñiun kinentra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mås mo'na mapribeniyi ni Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion madimånda na para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 006 E 01 ni ha kunsisisti i åria gi kåsi guaha 2,877 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para i rinikonosimientu.

ii. I prospective lessee i Unity Trade Service, Inc. I manmembru yan manehånti siha gi Unity Trade Service, Inc., si Gaudencio C. Macalinao, komu Presidenti, si Jacinta M. Macalinao, komu Sigundu Presidenti, si Luzviminda M. Tolentino, komu Sekritåria yan si Ronel Macalinao, komu "Authorized Representative".

iii. I maproponi na atkilon mankonfotma yan i regulasion DPL yan manigosiu gi as Siñot Ronel Macalinao.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt solamenti para operasion nu "auto repair shop", sheet metal work, iron" o sino "machine shop" yan otru manasosiåt na prublema.

I teman kuntråtan Atkilon Tanu' Pupbliku bentisingku (25) åñus.

I maproponi na atkilon kada såkkan gi durântin i tema magiha sigun gi putsientu i "appraised fair market value" gi propiedåt yan i aplikåbli na putsientu nu "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong na sengsong, Luta; pat gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i King's Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia managuaha lokkui' gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma'atkila masuhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 21, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

## ARONGORONG REEL MÁNGEMÁNGIL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Ll6l abwúngubwúng fengál me Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay ákkááw faluweer toulap iye e lo Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Aramasal toulap ikka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong ischil mángemáng, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ikka ra siiweli ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Iye re bwal ayoorai sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw e ffil ebwe bwal akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap iye re óleghi igha nge lot 006 D 01 iye e bwáá bwe 2,877 square meters, elápeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Pappidil bwulév eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website www.dpl.gov.mp reel ubwe amwuri.

ii. Prospective lessee nge unity Trade Service, Inc. List-al officers ngáli Unity Trade Service, Inc., nge Gaudencio C. Macalinao, bwe President, Jacinta M. Macalinao, bwe Vice-President, Luzviminda M. Tolentino, bwe Sekkretóóriya me Ronel Macalinao, bwe Authorized Representative.

iii. Pommwol Atkkilóón e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e ppwol sángi Mr. Ronel Macalinao.

iv. Schóól Atkkilóón ebwe yááyá bwulév ngáli mwóghutughutúl auto repair shop, angaangil sheet metal, iron me machine shop me ákkááw mwóghutughut ikka e schuulong igha.

Pommwol Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóónol Faluweer Toulap nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.
Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh atoll kkapasal abungubwungúl atkkilóón e lo reel "percentage" reel "appraised fair market value" reel falúw fengál me "applicable percentage" reel "Business Gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Sóóbwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel King's Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommwol siiwel ngáli atkkilóón iye rebwe atkkilaay me Lower Base, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ebwe bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommwol siiwel sángi schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong wóól ngáre mmwalil Settembre 21, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e lo Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.

**CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)**
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*Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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|---|---|
| COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, v. ESTATE OF PONCIANO CRUZ RASA, VIVIAN P. RASA, and CNMI DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, Defendants. | CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-0609 NOTICE OF SECOND AUCTION |

NOTICE OF SECOND AUCTION IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title or a long-term leasehold interest to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **September 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** in the open air outside the Commonwealth Development Authority, located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

**Lot Number 014 H 58**, situated in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, containing an area of square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 014 H 01, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document Number 8244, on the 16th day of May, 1979, and including all existing and permanent improvements on the real property.

This Notice of Second Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on January 18, 2013, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Estate of Ponciano Cruz Rasa and Vivian P. Rasa.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public and will be held in the open air. All public attendees are asked to observe social distancing measures and to wear face masks. Any attendees wishing to appear by video conferencing or telephone must notify counsel for CDA in advance at the
contact information provided in this notice at least by 10:00AM on September 29, 2020.

2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property if it meets minimum bid requirements. Bids may be entered in person, through mail, or electronic mail to Charity R. Hodson at the contact information provided in this notice.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property for possible exceptions to the title. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times of the property, appraisal report, or the preliminary title report. These documents will also be available for review upon request at the auction site on the date of auction. The interests of Defendants Estate of Ponciano Cruz Rasa and Vivian P. Rasa in the property or any leasehold interest to the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 20th day of August, 2020.

**/s/**
**Charity R. Hodson, F0487**
**Attorney for CDA**

**CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)**
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charity@chodsonlaw.com

*Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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| COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, v. ERIC B. ATALIG and LOURDES F. ATALIG, Defendants. | CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0004 NOTICE OF SECOND AUCTION |

**THIS NOTICE OF SECOND AUCTION IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title or a long-term leasehold interest to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **September 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** in the open air outside the Commonwealth Development Authority, located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

**Tract No. 21769-R2-5** (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

**Tract No. 21769-R2-9** (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

**Tract No. 21769-R2-10** (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

The foregoing properties contain a total area of 2,618 square meters, more or less. This This Notice of Second Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **January 12, 2017**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Eric B. Atalig and Lourdes F. Atalig.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:
1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public and will be held in the open air. All public attendees are asked to observe social distancing measures and to wear face masks. Any attendees wishing to appear by video conferencing or telephone must notify counsel for CDA in advance at the contact information provided in this notice at least by 10:00AM on September

2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c. To reject any and all bids.

Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property if it meets minimum bid requirements. Bids may be entered in person, through mail, or electronic mail to Charity R. Hodson at the contact information provided in this notice.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Eric B. Atalig and Lourdes F. Atalig in the property or any leasehold interest to the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 20th day of August, 2020.

**/s/**
**Charity R. Hodson, F0487**
**Attorney for CDA**

**CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)**
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**
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*Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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| COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, v. THE ESTATE OF HERMAN T. PALACIOS and THE ESTATE OF JOYCELYN C. PALACIOS, Defendants. | CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0004 NOTICE OF SECOND AUCTION |

**THIS NOTICE OF SECOND AUCTION** that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title or a long-term leasehold interest to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **September 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** in the open air outside the Commonwealth Development Authority, located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

**Lot No. 001 I 13,** containing an area of 1,529 square meters, more or less, as described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 I 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 712, on the 1st day of March 1971, including all existing and future improvements on the said property;

This Notice of Second Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **January 7, 2019,** in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public and will be held in the open air. All public attendees are asked to observe social distancing measures and to wear face masks. Any attendees wishing to appear by video conferencing or telephone must notify counsel for CDA in advance at the contact information provided in this notice at least by 10:00AM on September 29, 2020.

2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property if it meets minimum bid requirements. Bids may be entered in person, through mail, or electronic mail to Charity R. Hodson at the contact information provided in this notice.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios to the property or any leasehold interest to the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 20th day of August, 2020.

**/s/**
**Charity R. Hodson, F0487**
**Attorney for CDA**

**CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)**
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*Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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|---|---|
| COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, v. AMBROSE BENNETT, individually and dba LIL & BRO'S TRIKE DEALERSHIP & RENTALS, and JUAN T. LIZAMA, Defendants. | CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0236 NOTICE OF SECOND AUCTION |

**THIS NOTICE OF SECOND AUCTION IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title or a long-term leasehold interest to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **September 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** in the open air outside the Commonwealth Development Authority, located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

**Lot No. 031 A 01**, containing an area of 1,186 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 031 A 00 dated 20 February 1985, as File No. 85-0423.

This Notice of Second Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **July 23, 2018**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Ambrose Bennett, individual and dba Lil and Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals, and Juan T. Lizama.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:
1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public and will be held in the open air. All public attendees are asked to observe social distancing measures and to wear face masks. Any attendees wishing to appear by video conferencing or telephone must notify counsel for CDA in advance at the contact information provided in this notice at least by 10:00AM on September 29, 2020.

2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property if it meets minimum bid requirements. Bids may be entered in person, through mail, or electronic mail to Charity R. Hodson at the contact information provided in this notice.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interest of Defendant Juan T. Lizama or any leasehold interest to the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 20th day of August, 2020.

**/s/**
**Charity R. Hodson, F0487**
**Attorney for CDA**

# 3 retirees oppose Settlement Fund trustee pay hike

**By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA.**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three retirees have opposed the pay increase of Settlement Fund trustee Joyce Tang that the U.S. District Court for the NMI had approved last week.

David and Remi Sablan and Juan Manglona Sablan are opposing the pay raise because they claim not to understand the rationale behind it. The court earlier approved raising Tang's pay rate from $250 an hour to $350 an hour.

In a letter to U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, David and Remi Sablan said that Tang's reasoning for the pay raise is based on the positive growth of the stock market "…and that is not a rightful claim because the positive growth of the stock market is certainly not attributed to their legal expertise nor the results of their legal services to the Settlement Fund."

The couple added that Tang's services to the Settlement Fund at this time should be routine—without innovative thinking nor creative legal services.

"For the legal counsel to simply ask for a raise in pay is truly and simply greed and should not merit approval," they said.

The couple added that the staff at the office of the Settlement Fund administration should be able to operate smoothly doing daily routine work and periodic reporting to the court without a legal counsel's daily supervision.

"Such supervision is simply a financial drain to the Settlement Fund. It only shortens the financial lifespan of the Settlement Fund," they said.

In Juan Manglona Sablan's letter to the court regarding the rate increase for Tang, he said the timing in requesting for an increase cannot be justified when private businesses and governments worldwide are experiencing financial hardship with substantial reduction of revenues due to the worldwide epidemic of COVID-19.

Additionally, Juan Manglona Sablan said that there are retirees who have the financial background and management experience and can serve as a trustee for the Settlement Fund.

"That person will make sure that he or she will do a good job because it affects his or her pension, too," he said.

He noted that the Settlement Fund is paying 75% of the retirees' pension while the CNMI government pays 25%. "With the decrease of revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI government may have to reduce the 25%," he said.

Tydingco-Gatewood approved the rate increase for Tang effective June 11, 2019.

Recently, the court also approved Tang's request for compensation and reimbursement of expenses, saying they were reasonable.

She ordered the Settlement Fund to pay Tang the sum of $108,890.40 for the trustee's invoices from December 2019 to July 2020.

# PSS continues with hybrid learning

**By JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite a plea of one parent that was read by an Oleai Kindergarten teacher at a Board of Education meeting that urged the Public School System to give parents a choice between sending their child to school or doing remote learning, PSS senior director Yvonne Pangelinan assured that the implementation of hybrid learning—a mix of face-to-face and online learning—is still a go come October.

During the BOE special meeting last Sept. 11, Pangelinan also stated that the hybrid learning matrix is in line with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' executive order. Though the Community Vulnerability Level right now is at Level Blue, which is just a step away from the safest level of Green, Pangelinan pointed out that there are still restrictions that are still in effect. She added that PSS can't blindly bring all the students back to school.

Pangelinan assured that PSS will slowly bring back students for face-to-face instruction but in small groups. Additionally, she affirmed that teachers are still making adjustments to their classrooms to ensure that safety precautions and other measures are in place.

PSS is still going full force with school nurses, especially at a time when public health is crucial. These nurses will help monitor the health of students and teachers. Pangelinan said that it's extremely important to monitor because they need to know if all safety measures that are put in place are working.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada stated that school principals and himself will feel more comfortable opening up schools once there is a vaccine available, adding that it is not yet safe to open campuses for face-to-face instruction.

# NMI Small Business Development Act passes US House

The U.S. House of Representatives passed yesterday a bill whose goal is to create new opportunities for small business development in the Marianas.

Introduced by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), the Northern Mariana Islands Small Business Development Act will give the 1,700 small businesses in the Marianas equal access to assistance through grants from the Small Business Development Center program and through the Federal and State Technology program.

"Presently, the Northern Marianas is the only place in the U.S. not included in the Small Business Administration's SBDC and FAST programs," Sablan said. "My bill, H.R. 6021, will give our small businesses the same access to federal capital and advisory resources as their counterparts in the rest of America."

With the new grants from the SBDC program, the Marianas would be able to establish a Lead SBDC to expand the capacity of the existing SBDC service center. The Lead SBDC would increase access on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to free or low-cost services that encourage successful growth, such as business planning and incubator workspaces for entrepreneurs.

H.R. 6021 would also give Marianas businesses access to federal research and development opportunities through inclusion in the Small Business Administration's FAST program. FAST provides funding to strengthen the technological competitiveness of small businesses.

In his floor remarks yesterday, Sablan also expressed support for H.R. 6079, the Microloan Improvement Act, currently being considered by the House. H.R. 6079 includes a provision Sablan requested that makes Marianas small business owners eligible for the Small Business Administration's Microloan program. SBA provides these loans, typically not offered by banks, of up to $50,000 for working capital or the acquisition of materials, supplies, or equipment. The program would also make marketing, management, and technical assistance available to help women, low-income, and veteran entrepreneurs in the Marianas.

Both H.R. 6079 and H.R. 6021 passed the House on voice votes without dissent and now go to the Senate for consideration. ***(PR)***

## MHS to hold live stream meeting this evening

Marianas High School, in collaboration with the school's Parents Teachers Students Association, will be holding a live streaming meeting tonight, Sept. 16, 2020, starting at 6pm, for parents of MHS students to obtain important information about this new school year.

Christine Tudela, MHS interim principal, and Melanie Sablan, vice principal, along with special guests from the Public School System administration, will be there to answer all questions.

Topics we will be discussing are what school will look like in September using Blackboard Ultra and Learning SEL, preview what moving to the next phase of learning will look like, more information on device distribution that has already started, tips on how you can set up your home so that your student can succeed at online learning, and much more.

To watch the live stream go into your web browser and type https://www.facebook.com/MHSMightyDolphins or you can open your Facebook account and search Marianas High School. Once you are on this page just wait for the live stream to begin. We will start at 6pm.

The MHS PTSA has been working closely with MHS leaders all summer. We know this school year looks very different from any other year and many of us have questions. To help meet the needs of our parents, teachers and students PTSA will be hosting a live streaming meeting

Help the PTSA compile prequestions. Today, all MHS stakeholders can email questions to mhssaipan.ptsa@gmail.com. Hope to see many MHS family members there. ***(PR)***

## Guam construction firm to pay $109K for overtime violations

**DEDEDO, Guam**—After an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, a construction company based in Dededo, Guam will pay $85,993 to 75 employees for violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act's overtime requirements. The employer will also pay $23,118 in penalties for the willful nature of the violations.

The WHD investigation found that Modern Konstrak paid employees for their overtime hours at straight-time rates. The FLSA requires employers to pay overtime at time and one-half workers' regular rates of pay for hours they work beyond 40 in a workweek. The company also failed to keep accurate records of the actual number of hours employees worked, resulting in FLSA recordkeeping violations.

"The U.S. Department of Labor is committed to ensuring that employers pay workers all the wages they have legally earned," said Wage and Hour district director Terence Trotter in Honolulu, Hawaii. "Employers cannot enter into agreements with their employees to work for less than the law requires. We encourage other employers to review their own pay practices to ensure they comply with the law, and avoid overtime violations like those found in this case."

The department offers numerous resources to ensure employers have the tools they need to understand their responsibilities and to comply with federal law, such as online videos, confidential calls or in-person visits to local WHD offices.

For more information about the FLSA and other laws enforced by the Wage and Hour Division, contact the toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243). Employers who discover overtime or minimum wage violations may self-report and resolve those violations without litigation through the PAID program. Information is also available at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd.

The mission of WHD is to promote and achieve compliance with labor standards to protect and enhance the welfare of the nation's workforce. WHD enforces federal minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping and child labor requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act. WHD also enforces the paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave requirements of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, the Employee Polygraph Protection Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, wage garnishment provisions of the Consumer Credit Protection Act and a number of employment standards and worker protections as provided in several immigration related statutes. Additionally, WHD administers and enforces the prevailing wage requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act and other statutes applicable to federal contracts for construction and for the provision of goods and services.

The mission of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights. ***(PR)***


COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**ITB20-GOV-107**

**Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters at Various Government Buildings: Multi-Purpose Center, Department of Public Safety and Department of Labor**

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Arnold I. Palacios, through the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR), (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters at Various Government Buildings: Multi-Purpose Center, Department of Public Safety and Department of Labor on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available for pick up at the Hazard Mitigation Office located at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill, Saipan beginning September 11, 2020. A non-refundable payment of $25.00 is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented at the Hazard Mitigation Office on Capitol Hill. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

**Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.**

There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on **Friday, September 25, 2020, 10:30 am ChST at the Hazard Mitigation Office Conference Room** with a **limit of two (2) people per company due to COVID-19 social distancing** located at the Office of the Governor, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Mr. Benjie Pangelinan in writing by e-mail to bpangelinan@omb.gov.mp or fax to (670) 664-2408 on or before Tuesday, September 29, 2020. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB20-GOV-107 Supply and Installation of Typhoon shutters at Various Government Buildings: Multi-Purpose Center, Department of Public Safety and Department of Labor.** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:30 am ChST October 8, 2020.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:30 am. ChST October 8, 2020 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 8, 2020** and mailed to the Director of **Procurement and Supply at P.O. BOX 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950** and the bid documents must be received no later than **October 16, 2020.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, on Saipan at **10:30 am ChST, October 16, 2020.** However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:30 am ChST, October 8, 2020.**

Bids higher than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the proposal. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check, or other forms acceptable to the Government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety satisfactory to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the cheque: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Before the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue a bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond before executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) U.S. Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on U.S. Security Exchange
4) Real property owned in fee simple in the U.S.; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is 120 Calendar Days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be $100.00/day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS**

• ***Gratuities.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• ***Kickbacks.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• ***Contingent Fees.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
**Office of the Executive Director**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**CUC-IFB-20-029**

**TINIAN MAUI WELL II REHABILITATION PROJECT**
**(W17-054)**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new pump control panel, variable frequency drive (VFD), flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, check valves, interior/exterior painting of the facility and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

***This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.***

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-029, *Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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## EDITORIAL

# Can Americans trust any COVID-19 vaccine offered before Nov. 3?

That queasiness many of us are feeling these days isn't the first stage of the coronavirus, it's more likely a symptom of a gradual loss of confidence in the nation's leading public health agencies under President Donald Trump. Week by week if not day by day for the past six months, President Donald Trump has promoted false hopes, quack science and snake oil in a manner more befitting a carnival barker than the leader of the free world. Think bleach and hydroxychloroquine or, more recently, convalescent plasma, which the Food and Drug Administration has authorized for emergency treatment of COVID-19 patients, although its efficacy remains in serious doubt.

Add to that President Trump's clear disdain for expert opinion from such leading figures as Drs. Anthony Fauci and Deborah Birx, whom the president once trusted to brief Americans on the progress of the pandemic but has now shunted aside (too honest, too forthcoming, presumably) and his longtime fondness for prevarication (his false and misleading statements now total more than 20,000, according to The Washington Post), and he could scarcely have done a better job of sabotaging Americans' trust in modern medicine.

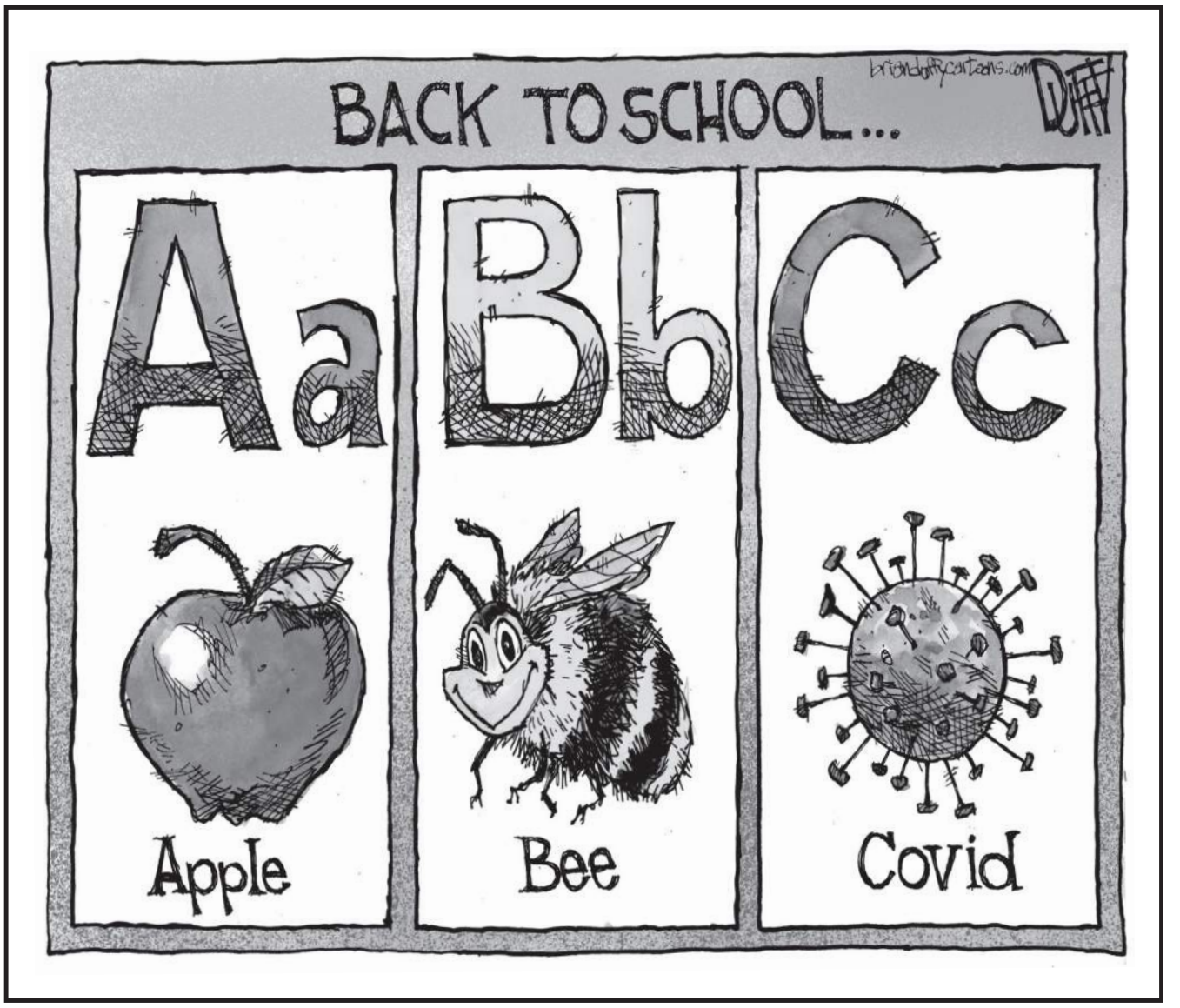
The latest revelation? That he knew how dangerous COVID-19 was in February and confided with reporter Bob Woodward about it, even as he publicly downplayed the threat to the American people. In other words, he didn't think the public could handle the unvarnished truth—or at least that's the current story. So whom can you trust?

Whatever the intent of Operation Warp Speed, the federal effort to produce 300 million doses of vaccine in record time, Americans rightly perceive the Star Trek reference as an homage to science fiction, not science fact. And a timetable that produces such a wonder drug on the eve of Election Day? Why doesn't the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services just throw in a good deal for the Brooklyn Bridge while they're at it?

What's especially horrifying about this drip-drip bloodletting of precious credibility within the public health community is that too many doctors and other health care professionals in government service have just gone along with it—often by simply remaining silent. There are exceptions, of course. Moncef Slaoui, the former top GlaxoSmithKline researcher who now serves as chief vaccine adviser to the White House, publicly admitted this month that it was "extremely unlikely" that a vaccine would be available by October's end.

So why did the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notify states to be prepared for that exact timetable? Just in case, Slaoui told National Public Radio, even though

*See COVID-19 on Next Page*




# Tall tales about election polls

**By W. JOSEPH CAMPBELL**
The Baltimore Sun

*W. Joseph Campbell (wjc@american.edu) is a professor of communication at American University in Washington, D.C., and author of the recently published book,* Lost in a Gallup: Polling Failure in U.S. Presidential Elections *(University of California Press).*

For decades, pre-election polls have been essential to how journalists and the public understand the ebb and flow of presidential campaigns. Much the same can be said for this year's election cycle.

Along with polls in abundance over the next few weeks, we're likely to encounter some of the exaggerated and cockeyed tall tales about presidential campaign surveys—such as the notion that polls got it dramatically wrong in the 2016 election. That sense spread widely in the aftermath of President Donald Trump's stunning victory over Hillary Rodham Clinton and persists to this day. It's enough to make opinion researchers bristle.

In his presidential address a couple of years ago to the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Timothy Johnson said: "If you're like me, seldom does a day pass when you are not obliged to correct the declaration of a friend, an acquaintance, or a university administrator that 'the surveys got it wrong in 2016.' This is going to be with us for a long time."

Nationally, the polls were pretty close, in aggregate, thanks to Clinton's wiping out Trump in California. She carried the Golden State by more than 4 million votes, a margin that erased Trump's popular vote advantage in the rest of the country and gave Clinton an overall lead of 2.1 percentage points. According to the final pre-election compilation of Real Clear Politics in 2016, the national polls overall placed Clinton ahead by 3.3 points. So the national polls overall didn't deviate greatly from the final result.

But there's more to the story of the polls in 2016 than the misunderstood popular vote. In decisive states the polls clearly misfired, especially so in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, and to a lesser extent Michigan. Trump defied the polls in those states and won them all narrowly. Had Clinton carried Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Michigan—as had been expected—she would have won the Electoral College and the presidency.

Anyone who takes more than passing interest in election surveys surely has heard the tale that pollsters were so confident Republican Thomas Dewey would win the presidency in 1948 that they stopped taking surveys weeks before Election Day. The blunder, it is said, caused them to miss a late surge of support for President Harry Truman.

It's a plausible excuse for what was an epic polling failure. But it's not entirely true.

George Gallup, who before the 1948 election was called the "Babe Ruth" of political polling by Time magazine, did complete nearly all his poll-taking 10 days or so before the election. But his principal rival, Elmo Roper, was quietly in the field in late October, wrapping up just days before the election. He found that while Truman had sliced into Dewey's lead, the Republican was well ahead.

Roper had pledged not to release new poll results unless a political miracle intervened. The late-campaign poll showed no miracle in the making so Roper didn't report it. He repurposed a September poll and predicted Dewey would win by 15 percentage points. Truman won by 4.5 percentage points.

It was a huge miss that recalled the Literary Digest and its descent to oblivion following a notoriously inaccurate poll in 1936.

The Literary Digest was a popular weekly magazine that in the 1920s and early 1930s had achieved what often was called an "uncanny" record of accurately forecasting presidential elections. It sent postcard-ballots to millions of people across the country, asking that they be filled in and returned. In 1932, the Literary Digest mass poll forecast Franklin D. Roosevelt's victory by 1.4 percentage points.

But in 1936, the publication's poll projected Republican Alf Landon of Kansas would unseat Roosevelt by near-landslide proportions. Instead, Roosevelt carried all but two states in the most one-sided contested presidential election to that time. The Literary Digest poll was off by 19.9 percentage points. It likely fell victim to non-response bias, in that Roosevelt's foes were more motivated to participate than were his supporters, producing a lopsided sample favoring Landon.

The polling failure was so immense that supposedly it drove the Literary Digest out of business—a not inconceivable penalty for getting it so woefully wrong.

*See POLLS on Next Page*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# My patients can 'feel well' yet test positive for the coronavirus. They're shocked, but I'm not

**By ZAINAB SAADI**
Los Angeles Times

*Zainab Saadi of Irvine, Calif., is an internal medicine physician and a member of a task force of health professionals who care for COVID-19-positive patients.*

As a physician, I'm part of a COVID-19 task force that contacts coronavirus-positive patients and clarifies the next steps in their care. When I tell them their test result is positive, many react with puzzlement, saying they "feel fine." So I was more than dismayed when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention appeared to succumb to political pressure to change its COVID-19 guidelines and discourage testing of people who are asymptomatic.

When the CDC recently issued new guidelines that no longer recommend testing people who feel fine but have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, the medical community and politicians across the country sounded an alarm. More than one expert said the guidelines had been revised for political, rather than scientific, reasons.

And New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo squarely blamed politics because the Trump administration doesn't "want publicity that there is a COVID problem." He pointed out that "if you don't test people for COVID, there are fewer cases" and called it a strategy of "denial."

Cuomo's criticism resonated with many physicians who, like me, repeatedly inform patients that "yes, you can look healthy, but still have the coronavirus and be spreading the infection."

Here's one chilling example of asymptomatic transmission from my outreach across Southern California that I have been given permission to share. A mother decided to have a small outdoor gathering with her adult son who lived with her and two other guests who did not—another son and a friend. The four people at the barbecue all felt well and masks were not worn. But within a few days, the mother gradually had difficulty breathing and was soon hospitalized with COVID-19.

She had been limiting her outings, and the son who lived with her studied remotely at home. She probably got the virus from either the visiting son or her friend. The mother had kept her social circle small, yet she was dead within two weeks of the barbecue.

Her story—dying from a virus she picked up from someone who was feeling well—is far from unique. On its website, the CDC has a table that shows about 50% of COVID-19 infections are spread by people who have no symptoms—so the political push to decrease testing naturally baffles physicians.

COVID-19 is regularly spread by people without symptoms, and catching these silent spreaders is critical to controlling COVID-19. This mother's story should serve as a cautionary tale to those who have become complacent about going out in public or socializing at home. Her story emphasizes why we need more coronavirus testing, not less.

Many of my patients who "feel well" were tested because of a work requirement. "Someone at work was found to have COVID-19," they will say, and "now we all have to get tested." Very few could identify the COVID-19-positive individual who transmitted the virus to them, let alone recall anyone at work who appeared to be sick.

When their test returns positive, they are shocked. But I am not. These presymptomatic or asymptomatic transmissions are old news at my clinic. Deciding against testing those who "feel fine" is an easy way to help the virus roar out of control, spreading uncaught and out of sight.

My clinical observations are supported by a large body of peer-reviewed, scientific literature. The now-famous Diamond Princess cruise ship's COVID-19 outbreak from earlier this year was a rare glimpse of the virus in an enclosed area. Although the majority of people initially felt fine, the virus rapidly spread, infecting about 700 people on the ship. About 58% of those with confirmed COVID-19 infections had zero symptoms at the time of testing, according to a letter recently published in the science journal the New England Journal of Medicine.

Symptoms are not a reliable marker of infection or infectivity—and they should not be a deciding factor in any decision to test.

Adm. Brett Giroir, the assistant secretary for health who spearheads the coronavirus testing efforts for the Trump administration, said the new recommendations emphasize testing "individuals (who may be asymptomatic) when prioritized by public health officials." What he is implying is: "We're punting on giving comprehensive testing guidance, and individual health professionals should figure it out on their own." That may sound innocent enough, but scattering the decision-making among individual voices divides the movement for COVID control. Dividing and splintering rarely results in cohesive success.

The solemn Hippocratic oath that physicians take says, "first, do no harm." This calls for a laser focus on a patient's health and science, not politics. The science is clear. Asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 is rampant.

Identifying the innocent, hidden spreaders of this preventable, deadly Russian roulette-like disease is critical to controlling the spread of COVID-19—and requires a unified national public health approach.

## COVID-19

*From Page 8*

there's a "very, very low chance" of that happening. It sounded suspiciously like a high-wire act, balancing the truth with presidential expectations to be as hopeful as possible. Meanwhile, nine drug companies felt compelled to sign a pledge Tuesday that claims they will "stand with science" and won't offer a vaccine that is not safe and effective. How extraordinary that vaccine producers had to fill the regulatory vacuum.

Some day when the COVID-19 pandemic is over, there will surely be a reckoning. Congratulations and thanks will go to the men and women who developed the necessary treatments and, we hope, immunizations, of course. But there also ought to be a clear accounting of those individuals who pandered to the political needs of an incumbent president with a propensity for prevarication. Americans deserved to hear the truth—good, bad or indifferent when so much was on the line. That's true today just as it was true in February.

Medical professionals who ignored their duty to the public should face consequences from their profession and the public. Whatever happens with the current pandemic, the loss of credibility in the U.S. public health community may have just as long-lasting consequences for the next medical crisis, global or domestic, no matter who occupies the Oval Office. That would be a tragedy, particularly because it was so easily preventable by simply telling the truth.

(c)2020 *The Baltimore Sun*

# A vaccine could slow down job growth

**By KARL W. SMITH**
Bloomberg News

*Karl W. Smith, a former assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina and founder of the blog Modeled Behavior, is vice president for federal policy at the Tax Foundation.*

Falling cases of the coronavirus imply that the U.S. economy could improve over the next month or two as lockdowns ease and Americans resume their normal lives. There is, however, an unexpected short-term risk: that a vaccine will be ready by November.

To be absolutely clear, over the medium and long term a vaccine will be a godsend for economic growth. Even if it weren't, a lower death rate is well worth a few more quarters of higher unemployment. Nonetheless, there is a possibility that the introduction of a vaccine could actually lead to a sharp if temporary deceleration in job growth.

Here's why: As it now stands, there is no end to the pandemic in sight. While the numbers are currently improving in many parts of the U.S., there could easily be a surge of infections in the winter. After that, it's anyone's guess. Even the more optimistic estimates suggest that U.S. would have to endure several more waves before the entire country reached herd immunity.

As a result, businesses and families have tried to find ways to plow through, adjusting to what is for the time being the new normal. A minority have even refused to abide by vague shutdown orders.

A vaccine would change all of that—setting a target date for everything to be over. For those considering returning to the office or school, a vaccine would provide a definitive answer to the question, "If not now, when?"

A vaccine would also create an obvious standard for who should be allowed back to work: those who've been vaccinated. While there is a robust debate about who should get a vaccine first, logic dictates that first responders and medical personnel will be among them. Then it would go to essential workers, however defined, across the economy.

It's likely that non-essential workers and schoolchildren would come close to last. So the mere discovery of a vaccine wouldn't necessarily end the current shutdown of businesses and schools; those reopenings would depend on the widespread distribution of a vaccine. Experts are uncertain about how long that would take, but it could easily be months.

While America is waiting for the vaccine to get distributed, job growth is likely to grind to a halt. Those who are already employed will likely stay employed, but it will be hard for employers to justify bringing anyone who has not been vaccinated into the workplace. Likewise, many school districts will demand that children get vaccinated before returning to school.

These two conditions—the reluctance of businesses to hire and schools to reopen—will severely limit how rapidly employment can expand through the end of this year and into the beginning of the next.

As a result, the U.S. economy might need another round of stimulus to get through the vaccination process. And here there is reason for optimism. While an imminent vaccine might temporarily freeze the economy, it should have the opposite effect on Congress: Free of the fear that it would be making the kind of open-ended commitments that it did during the first rounds of stimulus, Congress could quickly pass a relief bill.

In Washington and elsewhere, politicians and public officials should be prepared for the perverse possibility that a vaccine would bring not only hope but also hardship—at least temporarily—for many workers. Even after a vaccine is found, Americans struggling to get by will still need assistance.

## POLLS

*From Page 8*

But that's another exaggeration. The errant poll didn't destroy the publication. The magazine had been in decline years before 1936 and its content seemed stale in comparison to the edgier reporting of Time. "It lost out," the New York Times said soon after the Literary Digest was absorbed by Time in 1938, "because it couldn't adapt its formula to a jazzier lot of young people, whose attention is usually there when one wants it here."

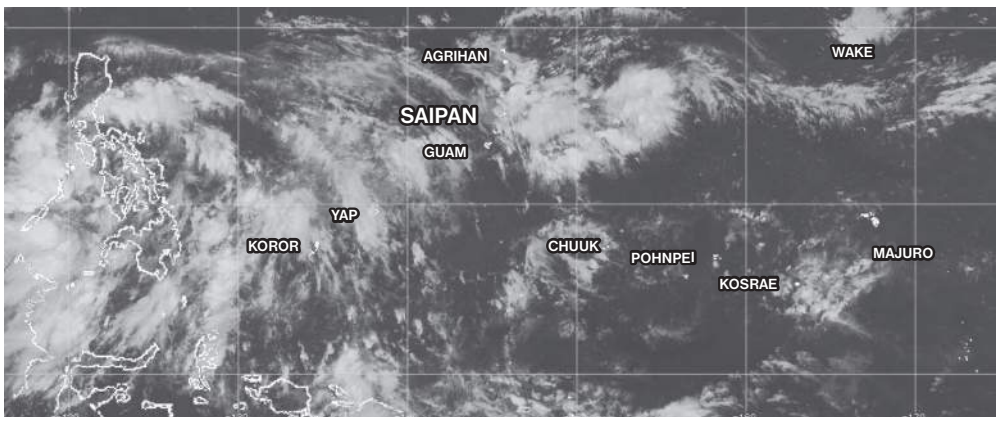
Like other myths, these tall tales persist because they are easy-to-grasp parables. They supposedly tell us something about the imperfection of election polls. They also simplify the intricacy of polling, making it seem more accessible if not entirely understandable.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. | Cloudy with scattered showers in the morning, then partly sunny with isolated showers in the afternoon. Isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| 87° 78° | 87° 78° | 87° 78° | 88° 78° | 89° 78° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 7:28 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed isolated showers over the Marianas. An upper-level low is centered just northwest of the Saipan and will cause upper-level divergence over the local area. This divergence combined with low-level convergence will increase the chances for shower activity, Models suggest increasing shower coverage during the afternoon along with a few thunderstorms. Models depict scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms persisting through tonight.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

| MICRONESIA | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 83° / 77° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 85° / 77° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 85° / 80° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 87° / 79° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 86° / 76° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 76° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 86° / 81° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:05 AM | 6:17 PM |
| Thursday | 6:05 AM | 6:17 PM |
| Friday | 6:05 AM | 6:16 PM |
| Saturday | 6:05 AM | 6:15 PM |
| Sunday | 6:05 AM | 6:14 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 4:34 AM | 5:33 PM | - |
| Thursday | 5:35 AM | 6:20 PM | - |
| Friday | 6:36 AM | 7:06 PM | - |
| Saturday | 7:36 AM | 7:52 PM | - |
| Sunday | 8:36 AM | 8:39 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Mostly Sunny | 61° / 52° |
| Beijing | Ptly Cloudy | 84° / 63° |
| Hong Kong | Showers | 91° / 82° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 75° |
| London | Showers | 61° / 45° |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 74° / 63° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 90° / 79° |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 54° / 37° |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | 87° / 80° |
| New York | Showers | 82° / 68° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 66° |
| Paris | Thunderstorms | 63° / 45° |
| Busan | Showers | 75° / 72° |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 79° / 66° |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 68° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 68° / 57° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 81° / 61° |
| Tokyo | Cloudy | 73° / 64° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 83° / 67° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 12:34 AM | LOW TIDE | 1.03 |
| 5:50 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.96 |
| 12:48 PM | LOW TIDE | -0.11 |
| 7:29 PM | HIGH TIDE | 2.03 |

# FLIGHT SCHEDULE

## DEPARTURES

### GUM-MNL

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA183 | 7:30am | 9:10pm | 1 via Guam |
| UA183 | 7:30am | 10:50pm | 5 via Guam |

Friday GUM-MNL will need THU overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 7:30am | 8:10am | 1, 4 |
| UA117 | 7:50am | 8:30am | 6 |

### SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 7:30am | 9:10pm | 1 via Guam |

## ARRIVALS

### MNL-GUM

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 10:45pm | 4:25am+1 | 1 via Guam |
| UA184 | 11:45pm | 5:33am+1 | 5 via Guam |

Monday MNL-GUM will need TUE-WED overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

### GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 5:50am | 6:31am | 1, 4 |
| UA174 | 6:15am | 6:56am | 6 |

### MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184/174 | 11:45pm | 6:56am+1 | 5 via Guam |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

# STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### SAIPAN TO ROTA

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301.2 | 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Tues/Fri |
| 1303 | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | Tues/Fri |

### ROTA TO SAIPAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101.2 | 9:30AM | 10:00AM | Tues/Fri |
| 3103 | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | Tues/Fri |

### ROTA TO GUAM

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |

### GUAM TO ROTA

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Temporarily Unavailable |

### SAIPAN TO TINIAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00 | 7:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1205 | 11:00 | 11:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1206 | 12:00 | 12:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1207 | 13:00 | 13:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1212 | 18:00 | 18:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |

### TINIAN TO SAIPAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2101 | 7:30 | 7:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2105 | 11:30 | 11:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2106 | 12:30 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2107 | 13:30 | 13:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2112 | 18:30 | 18:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |

# Business

## Come to lunch at PIC's The Galley

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Galley at Pacific Islands Club Saipan is your new lunch place from Monday to Friday, 11am-2pm.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Craving for a burger? Come to The Galley at Pacific Island Club Saipan in San Antonio and see their wide array of dishes–American, Japanese, Korean, and local cuisine.

Pacific Island Club's The Galley is now open for lunch that gives the community more lunch options. The Galley provides great ambiance and good food at reasonable prices and whatever dish you fancy—American, Japanese, Korean, Italian, or local cuisine—staff will be at your beck and call serving food hot and fresh.

According PIC general manager Gloria Cavanagh, they reopened The Galley to test the waters after being closed for a couple of months due to COVID-19 concerns. "We opened on Sept. 1…we are trying out The Galley for now to see if the demand is there. Happy Hour at Seaside Grill Sunset which we reopened in August is doing well," she said

"Lunch at The Galley is available from 11am to 2pm from Monday to Friday. For light lunch eaters, we have soups, appetizers, salad, pizza, and sandwiches. For noodle and pasta lovers we have Japanese and Korean ramen, spaghetti Bolognese and Carbonara. Our main entrees include beef bulgogi, Galley Steak Burger, Japanese homestyle curry, and crispy fried chicken," she added.

Pre-COVID-19, The Galley used to be open from 5am to 12pm so that PIC guests and locals can get their food fix any time of the day. Although they are currently operating on limited days and time, walk-ins and take-outs are accepted.

"We will be offering Magellan Sunday brunch soon and we will have all the regular dishes including the carving station. All food will be dished out at five different action stations. There will still be unlimited wine and beer and of course, there will also be champagne," Cavanagh said.

"Just like with Seaside Grill Sunset, health and safety protocols are in place in accordance to the regulations of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Bureau of Environmental Health… the community can be assured that all employees have been trained because the safety and enjoyment of our customers is our priority," Cavanagh added.

The Galley is open during lunch, 11am-2pm from Monday to Friday, Seaside Grill Sunset is open for Happy Hour, 5pm-9pm Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. For more information call (670) 234-7976, 8am-5pm, from Monday to Wednesday and 8am-9pm from Thursday to Saturday.

## UK's Johnson defends planned law, says EU 'unreasonable'

**LONDON** (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday defended his plan to unilaterally rewrite Britain's divorce deal with the European Union as an insurance policy against the bloc's unreasonable behavior—even as his former attorney general joined the ranks of once-loyal lawmakers condemning the contentious move.

Johnson said a planned law designed to override portions of the Brexit withdrawal agreement was needed because the EU might "go to extreme and unreasonable lengths" in its treatment of former member Britain.

"I have absolutely no desire to use these measures," Johnson told lawmakers as he introduced the Internal Market Bill in the House of Commons. "They are an insurance policy."

Johnson's Conservative government has acknowledged that the bill breaches the legally binding withdrawal treaty that Britain and the EU have both ratified. The legislation threatens to sink the already-foundering negotiations between Britain and the EU on a post-Brexit trade deal.

The U.K. formally left the bloc on Jan. 31, but existing trade rules remain in effect until the end of this year under a transition designed to provide time to negotiate a long-term trade agreement.

Ed Milliband, business spokesman for the opposition Labour Party, accused Johnson of "trashing the reputation of this country and trashing the reputation of his office."

With an 80-seat majority in the House of Commons, Johnson is expected to have enough votes to push his legislation through Parliament despite opposition anger.

The bill easily cleared its first House of Commons vote by 340 to 263 on Monday. It will now face attempts to amend or overturn it during several days of detailed scrutiny by lawmakers before another vote.

There is wide unease within Johnson's party about the law-breaking move.

Geoffrey Cox, who was the government's top legal officer when Johnson negotiated the Brexit withdrawal agreement less than a year ago, said reneging on the deal would be an "unconscionable" breach of international law.

"I simply cannot approve or endorse a situation in which we go back on our word, given solemnly," Cox, previously a strong supporter of Johnson on Brexit, told Times Radio. "The breaking of the law ultimately leads to very long-term and permanent damage to this country's reputation."

Sajid Javid, a former Treasury chief in Johnson's government, also said he would not vote for the bill, because "I cannot support the U.K. pre-emptively reneging" on the withdrawal agreement.

## China warns US over US-Taiwan economic talks

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—China warned the United States on Monday of potential "serious damage" to their relations if it does not withdraw from an upcoming economic meeting with Taiwan that is expected to be attended by a senior American official.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin urged the U.S. at a daily briefing to "stop all forms of official exchanges with Taiwan, so as to avoid serious damage to China-U.S. relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

Taiwanese media reported that U.S. Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Keith Krach is planning to visit the island later this week for an economic and commercial dialogue with Taiwan's government.

The visit would follow one by U.S. Health Secretary Alex Azar last month. Azar was the highest-level U.S. Cabinet official to visit since a break in formal ties between the U.S. and Taiwanese government in 1979, when the U.S. accepted a "one-China policy" with Beijing as its government.

A visit by Krach is likely to inspire further anger from China. China considers self-ruled Taiwan part of its own territory, and strongly opposes any official contacts between other nations and the island.

Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed last week that it was in negotiations with the U.S. on such talks, but did not comment on a specific date or who might attend from Washington.

**STOCK PORTFOLIO**

**LEADING INDICATORS**

| DOW | S&P | NASDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| 28,129.00 | 3,399.00 | 11,337.75 |
| +136.00 | +16.50 | +57.25 |
| [+0.49%] | [+0.49%] | [+0.51%] |

**EXCHANGE RATES**

In U.S. dollar terms

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australian Dollar | 1.3644 | Hong Kong Dollar | 7.7497 | Russian Ruble | 74.1097 |
| British Pound | 0.7766 | Indian Rupee | 73.1489 | Singapore Dollar | 1.3602 |
| Canadian Dollar | 1.3138 | Japanese Yen | 105.6140 | South Korean Won | 1,156.18 |
| Chinese Yuan | 6.6912 | Malaysian Ringgit | 4.0957 | Swiss Franc | 0.9064 |
| Euro | 0.8407 | New Zealand Dollar | 1.4874 | Taiwan Dollar | 28.7793 |
| | | Philippine Peso | 47.5926 | Thailand Baht | 31.2140 |

# Nation

# Trump defies virus rules as 'peaceful protest' rallies grow

**WASHINGTON** (AP)— President Donald Trump is running as the "law and order" candidate. But that hasn't stopped him and his campaign from openly defying state emergency orders and flouting his own administration's coronavirus guidelines as he holds ever-growing rallies in battleground states.

Democratic governors and local leaders have urged the president to reconsider the events, warning that he's putting lives at risk. But they have largely not tried to block the gatherings of thousands of people, which Trump and his team deem "peaceful protests" protected by the First Amendment.

"If you can join tens of thousands of people protesting in the streets, gamble in a casino, or burn down small businesses in riots, you can gather peacefully under the 1st Amendment to hear from the President of the United States," Tim Murtaugh, a Trump campaign spokesperson, said in a statement.

AP

Supporters react as President Donald Trump speaks at a Latinos for Trump Coalition roundtable at Arizona Grand Resort & Spa, Monday, Sept. 14, 2020, in Phoenix.

Trump's refusal to abide by health guidelines — even those crafted by his own administration — underscores the extent to which he believes projecting an image of normalcy is vital to winning in November, even as the country approaches 200,000 deaths from COVID-19.

Trump has tried to use this summer's mass protests over racial injustice and police misconduct as cover for his rallies, making the case that, if demonstrators can gather en masse, so can his supporters. So far, Democratic governors have declined to stand in his way, refusing to become a foil to Trump and feed into his narrative that liberals are trying to deny Republicans their First Amendment rights.

Trump's campaign insisted that it takes appropriate health precautions, including handing out masks and hand sanitizer and checking the temperatures of rallygoers.

But images of thousands of maskless supporters standing shoulder to shoulder remain jarring in a country where sports are still played in empty arenas and concerts have been largely banned. That's especially true for those who have lost loved ones or spent months isolating at home and worry that rallies will further spread infection, undermining hard-fought progress. An indoor rally that Trump held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in June was blamed for a surge of virus infections there.

Trump held an indoor rally at the Xtreme Manufacturing facility in Henderson, Nevada, on Sunday night. The state restricts gatherings to 50 people — based on White House reopening guidelines — but thousands of supporters packed into the warehouse space nonetheless. Relatively few people wore masks.

"This is an insult to every Nevadan who has followed the directives, made sacrifices, and put their neighbors before themselves," said Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak, a Democrat.

The city of Henderson on Monday announced that it was fining Xtreme Manufacturing $3,000. Sisolak slammed the rally as "shameful, dangerous and irresponsible." But it does not appear the governor would try to prevent a replay. If Trump returns to the state for another rally, said COVID-19 response director Caleb Cage, state officials will continue to encourage his campaign to follow state law and directives.

In some other states, the rallies are legal. In North Carolina, an order signed by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper limits outdoor gatherings to 50 people and mandates masks in public, but "activities constituting the exercise of First Amendment rights" are exempt.

The state's top public health official, Dr. Mandy Cohen, played down calls for stricter enforcement last week as she criticized Trump for holding a rally at the Winston-Salem airport, where thousands of supporters crammed together without masks.

"This isn't really about mandates and enforcement. It's about leadership," Cohen told reporters.

"By using the First Amendment exemption for mass gatherings under the governor's executive order in this way, they're making it much harder for North Carolina to get our children back in school and people back to work safely," said Dory MacMillan, a spokesperson for Cooper.

## Sally's threat: 'Potentially historic' floods, fierce winds

**WAVELAND, Miss.** (AP)— Hurricane Sally, one of four storms churning simultaneously in the Atlantic, closed in on the Gulf Coast on Monday with rapidly strengthening winds of at least 100 mph (161 kph) and heavy rain as forecasters warned of "potentially historic" flooding and governors declared states of emergency.

The slow-moving storm was forecast to brush the southeastern tip of Louisiana and then blow ashore late Tuesday or early Wednesday near the Mississippi-Alabama state line, the National Hurricane Center said. Hurricane warnings stretched from Morgan City, Louisiana, to Navarre, Florida.

President Donald Trump issued an emergency declaration for parts of Louisiana and Mississippi on Monday, an action that authorizes federal emergency officials to coordinate disaster relief efforts and provide emergency assistance to the affected areas.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey asked the president to do the same for her state after the National Weather Service in Mobile warned of the increasing likelihood of "dangerous and potentially historic flooding." The weather service forecast that waters could rise as much as 9 feet (2.7 meters) above ground in large parts of the Mobile metro area. With a population of 400,000 people, it is among the largest metro areas along the Gulf Coast between New Orleans and Tampa, Florida. Some businesses in Mobile placed sandbags at their entrances in preparation.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency in the Panhandle's westernmost counties, Escambia and Santa Rosa as the hurricane's outer bands began to lash the area. All along the storm-weary Gulf Coast, residents rushed to buy bottled water and other supplies ahead of the hurricane, which powered up to a Category 2 in the afternoon. Forecasters said sustained winds could reach 110 mph (177 kph), just below Category 3 strength, by landfall.

Seawater and sand swept onto roads on one end of Dauphin Island off the coast of Alabama, washing away several cars, Dauphin Island Mayor Jeff Collier said. He said about a dozen people had to be evacuated by Humvee.

In coastal Mississippi, water spilled onto roads, lawns and docks well before the storm's arrival. All 12 casinos were ordered to shut down Monday afternoon and Gov. Tate Reeves urged residents of low-lying areas to prepare to evacuate.

"This is the real deal, and it deserves your attention," Reeves wrote on Twitter. "Be smart. Prepare for worst. Pray for the best," he said.

## Court: Trump can end temporary legal status for 4 countries

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—The Trump administration can end humanitarian protections that have allowed hundreds of thousands of people from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti and Sudan to remain in the United States, a divided appeals court ruled Monday.

While an appeal is imminent and orders to leave wouldn't take effect for months, the decision moved many people closer to losing legal status, including families who have been in the U.S. for decades and have young children who are American citizens.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifted a preliminary injunction that blocked the government from ending Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, for people from those four countries that are affected by natural disasters and civil conflict.

The order also applies to beneficiaries from Honduras and Nepal, who sued separately but are subject to Monday's ruling under an agreement between attorneys for both sides, said Ahilan Arulanantham, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, who argued on behalf of TPS holders.

Since 1990, the policy has granted temporary legal status, which is often extended. But the Trump administration decided to end it for several countries, saying the conditions that justified protections in America no longer exist.

That decision had been on hold even as President Donald Trump moved to restrict other forms of humanitarian status in the U.S., such as refugee resettlement and access to asylum.

A three-judge 9th Circuit panel in Pasadena, California, rejected arguments that the administration failed to follow proper procedures and that racially motivated comments by the president and his aides about some of the countries drove the decision to end TPS.

The ACLU noted that in 2017, Trump said recent immigrants from Haiti "all have AIDS" and that Nigerians, once seeing the United States, would never "go back to their huts" in Africa.

White House pressure on Homeland Security leaders to end TPS didn't prove racial motivation and was "neither unusual nor improper," wrote Judge Consuelo Callahan, who was appointed by President George W. Bush. She noted that the administration extended TPS for other non-white, non-European countries.

"While we do not condone the offensive and disparaging nature of the president's remarks, we find it instructive that these statements occurred primarily in contexts removed from and unrelated to TPS policy or decisions," Callahan wrote.

Judge Ryan Nelson, a Trump appointee, issued a concurring opinion. Judge Morgan Christen, who was appointed by President Barack Obama, dissented.

# Asia

## India adds over 83K cases, nears 5M

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—India confirmed more than 83,000 new coronavirus cases on Tuesday, bringing its total caseload to nearly 5 million.

The Health Ministry also reported 1,054 new deaths, driving total fatalities up to 80,776.

With 4.93 million confirmed cases, India has the second-highest total in the world after the U.S. Infections have maintained an upward surge amid an ease in coronavirus restrictions nationwide. More than 600,000 new cases have been confirmed in the last week alone.

Maharashtra, with more than 1 million cases, remains the worst-affected state in India, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

India, however, also has the highest number of recovered patients in the world, according to Johns Hopkins University. The country's recovery rate stands at 77.8%, with nearly 3.8 million people recovering from the virus so far, according to the Health Ministry.

India's Parliament, which reopened Monday after being shut down for more than five months due to the coronavirus, said that more than 10 million migrant laborers had made their way back to their home states from various corners of the country during a strict nationwide lockdown. It said there was no data available for the number of migrant deaths.

A flood of migrant workers, out of money and fearing starvation, poured out of cities and headed back to villages when Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered the nationwide lockdown on March 24. The unprecedented migration was one key reason that the virus spread to the far reaches of the country.

The lockdown also caused a severe economic crisis. India's economy contracted nearly 24% in the second quarter, the worst among the world's top economies.

Elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ China has reported eight new coronavirus cases, all from people who entered the country, including two Myanmar nationals who had crossed the land border at the Chinese city of Ruili. Myanmar has seen a surge in new coronavirus cases. On Friday, the country reimposed tough measures to control the spread of the disease. Ruili was placed under lockdown on Monday evening, with people banned from leaving the city and residents quarantined at home for a week. A government statement said all residents of the city would be tested for the virus and authorities would crack down on the area's notorious cross-border smuggling trade. The border itself was closed and additional restrictions placed on outlying villages. China has gone a month without new cases of domestic infection.

■ South Korea's daily coronavirus tally has stayed in the low 100s for a third consecutive day, maintaining a downward trajectory. The 106 cases added Tuesday brought the country's total to 22,391, including 367 deaths. South Korea's daily jump has remained in triple digits for more than a month, but its caseload has recently gradually slowed down in the wake of stringent social distancing rules. The government on Monday relaxed physical distancing guidelines in the greater Seoul area, the heart of a recent viral resurgence.

## With Abe's exit, Seoul seeks to mend Japan ties

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—It took a bombshell resignation before Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe heard anything nice from South Korea.

The rare praise came after years of diplomatic rows and testy confrontations between Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and only after the Japanese prime minister announced at the end of last month that he was stepping down after eight years in office because of ill health.

With Abe and Moon in charge, the relationship between the key U.S. allies sank to new lows, with grievances over wartime history spilling over into trade and military issues. Japan's political shakeup could be an opportunity for South Korea, which sees Abe's departure as a chance to clear things up between the rivals.

Senior South Korean officials during a recent national security council meeting vowed to "advance stalled negotiations on pending issues" once a new Japanese leader is in place. Yoshihide Suga, currently chief Cabinet secretary and Abe's right-hand man, won Japan's governing party leadership vote Monday, virtually guaranteeing that parliament will choose him as the next prime minister.

Suga has also hinted at improving ties with South Korea.

"China and South Korea are neighbors, and even though there are difficult problems between us, I plan to pursue diplomacy that can allow us to always communicate and develop strategic relations with them, rather than choosing one or the other," he said in a recent debate.

Good relations are crucial to both Japan and South Korea.

Despite their political conflicts, they remain closely connected economically and face similar challenges. Those include North Korea's growing nuclear arsenal and a rising authoritarian superpower in China.

They also share long-term uncertainties about their alliances with a less-engaging United States, a shift highlighted by President Donald Trump's "America first" approach and his complaints about the costs of stationing some 80,000 U.S. troops in South Korea and Japan.

"Patching up differences with Tokyo would improve alliance coordination with the United States, help manage regional uncertainties concerning China, and provide Seoul leverage in dealing with North Korea," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

What remains unclear, however, is whether Abe's exit will prove to be a diplomatic turning point. Mutual resentment runs deep and goes beyond individual politicians.

To South Koreans, Abe was less likable than even North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, according to a November Gallup Korea poll. Abe was often seen in South Korea as a right-wing nationalist intent on whitewashing Japanese colonialism and atrocities on the Korean Peninsula before the end of World War II.

Placing the blame for bad relations entirely on Abe, however, overlooks the broad public support he won at home for a tough policy toward South Korea.

There's a widespread view in Japan that South Korea is violating international norms by repeatedly revisiting wartime issues that were supposed to have been settled, said Choi Eun-mi, a Japan expert at South Korea's Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

"Abe's resignation does offer a window for improved relations, but it's unrealistic to expect significant changes," she said.

# World

## TO FIGHT COVID-19

## France tightens screws on public activities

**PARIS** (AP)—Two of France's biggest cities with COVID-19 infection rates gathering speed even faster than the national surge in new cases are tightening limits on public activities as the French government seeks to ward off a new nationwide lockdown.

(AP PHOTO/MICHEL EULER)

Police officers talk to a man while wearing protective face masks as precaution against the conoravirus at Tocadero plaza near Eiffel Tower in Paris, Monday, Sept. 14, 2020. France sees a substantial increase of Covid-19 cases.

The stricter restrictions announced Monday in Marseille and Bordeaux were responses to a demand from France's prime minister that both cities take additional steps to stem their growing numbers of infections, which were putting pressure on regional health services.

In Bordeaux, the top government official for the region announced a ban on gatherings of more than 10 people in public parks, along the city's picturesque river and on beaches.

Also banned are fun fairs, antique fairs and neighborhood parties. The new rules also limit the size of large public gatherings to no more than 1,000 people, below the national benchmark of 5,000 people. That limit covers places like stadiums and concert halls, as well as demonstrations.

To counter partying, Bordeaux cafes and restaurants will also no longer be able to serve clients who are standing up and will not be able to play music outdoors. Dancing is forbidden in public venues, including at weddings. Drinking alcohol in public is also banned in Bordeaux, a center of the French wine industry.

The regional government also asked Bordeaux residents to limit private family gatherings, singling out weddings, to a maximum of 10 people.

The Gironde region that includes Bordeaux was largely spared France's first wave of infections that overwhelmed hospitals and led to a two-month lockdown from March. But it is now seeing a surge in positive tests, at rates above the national average, especially in the 15-44 age group.

In Marseille, France's second-biggest city after Paris, the regional government announced a series of similar restrictions and the cancellation of an 11-day international festival, as well as a growing number of localities where masks will be obligatory outdoors.

The Marseille region's top government official vowed to quickly close down bars and restaurants that don't observe an overnight curfew and that serve clients who stand up. Clients also will no longer be able to share pipes for smoking fragrant tobaccos, a popular pastime for some immigrant groups.

Student parties are banned and school trips are suspended. Shows and other events in public halls, in tents and sports arenas are being limited to 1,000 people, who must be seated and kept apart.

## Russian opposition leader Navalny able to leave hospital bed

**BERLIN** (AP)—Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny is able to breathe on his own and briefly leave his hospital bed, his doctors said Monday, while Germany announced that French and Swedish labs have confirmed its findings that he was poisoned with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok.

Navalny, 44, was flown to Berlin for treatment at the Charite hospital two days after falling ill on a domestic flight in Russia on Aug. 20. Germany has demanded that Russia investigate the case, while Moscow has accused the West of trying to smear Russia.

Navalny has "successfully been removed from mechanical ventilation" and is able to leave his bed "for short periods of time," the hospital said.

Although noting the improvement in Navalny's health, the statement didn't address the long-term outlook for the anti-corruption campaigner and most prominent opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Doctors previously cautioned that even though Navalny is recovering, long-term health problems from the poisoning cannot be ruled out.

The Kremlin has bristled at calls from German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders to answer questions about the poisoning, denying any official involvement.

The news about Navalny's condition came as his associates made some gains in regional elections held across Russia on Sunday.

In Novosibirsk, which Navalny visited before falling ill, the head of his regional headquarters, Sergei Boiko, won a seat on the city council. United Russia, the main Kremlin party that Navalny has dubbed a "party of crooks and thieves," lost its majority on the council, according to preliminary returns. Another Navalny representative, Ksenia Fadeyeva, won a city council seat in Tomsk, the city he left on the flight on which he fell ill.

The German government said tests by labs in France and Sweden backed up findings by a German military lab that Navalny was poisoned with Novichok, the same class of Soviet-era agent that Britain said was used on former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Salisbury, England, in 2018.

The Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons also is taking steps to have samples from Navalny tested at its designated labs, German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said.

He said Germany had asked France and Sweden for an independent examination of the findings. German officials said labs in both countries, as well as the OPCW, took new samples from Navalny.

# Good Housekeeping

## 5 things you can do right now to improve your indoor air quality

By JANET EASTMAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVIVE

Oregonians facing smoky skies due to wildfires went looking this weekend for inexpensive ways to remove harmful smoke and pollutants that had crept inside their homes.

Many returned empty-handed. Home Depot had a run on its air purifiers and shelves in many smoke-laden areas still needed to be restocked Monday.

Smoky air, which can travel miles from a fire, is expected to linger in Oregon and Southwest Washington through at least Thursday, according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

But don't worry.

The Oregon Health Authority, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other experts recommend these DIY ways to improve indoor air now:

TNS

Zoe Flanagan walks her dogs amid dense smoke from wildfires in Portland, Ore., on Monday, Sept. 14, 2020. Wildfires across the U.S. West have created hazardous air quality in Portland and other West Coast cities.

### Seal Out Smoke

Make sure all windows and doors are shut. Use weather sealing or even masking tape to cover gaps. Place damp towels under doors or in other crevices where polluted air might leak in.

Stay as long as you can in a room with the fewest windows and no fireplace or ventilation ducts that connect to the outside, and keep an air purifier running constantly here, says Consumer Reports.

Avoid indoor activities that increase indoor pollution, like smoking, burning candles and using a gas stove. Refrain from doing activities that stir up dust already inside your home. Limit vacuuming unless your vacuum has a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter.

### Clean Filters

Check your heating filters daily due to the amount of wildfire smoke. You will need to change or clean them more often than the recommended two or three times a year. Once a filter is full, it no longer traps particulates, says Consumer Reports.

Make sure you have the right size filter to ensure that as many particulates as possible are being filtered and they are not going around the filter. Have backup filters ready.

Health experts and others recommend using only HEPA filters, which use a fan to force air through a fine mesh to trap particles in indoor heating, ventilation, cooling and air purification systems.

### Adjust Your Air Conditioner

If you have a central heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, set the fan to "on," rather than "auto" to make sure the fan is constantly circulating and filtering air. HVAC systems do not pull air from outside.

If you have a fresh air system, however, turn it off until the smoke is cleared since it will draw in polluted air from outside. Turn it back to on after the smoke has subsided.

Read more about adjusting your HVAC system here.

### Make an Air Filter

You can create an air purifying filter by covering the front of a box fan with a HEPA furnace filter or one rated MERV-13 or higher. For safety, turn the fan off if you leave the house. Here are instructions to a DIY air filter.

### Consider Portable Air Purifiers

No air cleaner or filter will eliminate all of the air pollutants. But air purifiers properly fitted with HEPA filters can reduce particle concentrations by as much as 85 percent, according to the EPA.

If you want to get rid of the smell of smoke in addition to particles, you'll want an air purifier that also has a carbon filter to absorb odors, says Consumer Reports.

Buy a portable air cleaner that has a clean air delivery rate (CADR) large enough for the size of the room or area where you will use it.

Lakin Norton of Pyramid Heating + Cooling in Portland says the Air Scrubber air purifier will help with the smell and overall air quality. She stocks units for conventional forced air systems and ductless, mini split systems as well as a pocket-size unit to take when you travel to be used in a car or hotel room.

Pyramid Heating + Cooling has all three types of Air Scrubbers in stock and offers contact-free phone and video consultations, Text the Expert services at 831-346-5955 and free deliveries.

Dyson offers a range of advanced purifiers that remove gases and odors, and capture 99.97% of allergens and pollutants as small as 0.3 microns. Select from cooling air purifiers, air purifiers with humidifiers, and ones with heaters.

The Dyson Pure Hot+Cool HP01 purifying heater + fan is on sale for $$399.99, a discount of $100 plus free delivery. Dyson purifiers are certified asthma and allergy friendly by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

Consumer Reports ranked these air purifiers as the best to counter wildfire smoke:

■ Alen BreatheSmart Classic air purifier was designed for floor or tabletop use in a large room. This device is usually available at Amazon and Lowe's for $649, but is now out of stock. The Allergy Buyers Club sells it and similar products.

■ Blueair Blue Pure 211+ air purifier ($299 at Best Buy and Home Depot) stands on the floor and can cover a large room. Blueair Classic 605 ($899 plus a 10% discount at Allergy Buyers Club.com) is for floor or tabletop use in a large room. The brand is also available at Amazon.

■ Honeywell 50250 Enviracaire Air Purifier ($266) that covers 374 square feet is out of stock online at Office Depot and Office Max. The Honeywell HPA300 air purifier ($250) is out of stock at Amazon, but there are other Honeywell air cleaners. Home Depot has the Honeywell True HEPA air purifier that covers 456 square feet for $221.

## Why more families are opting for homeschooling

By KELLY O'SHEA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The pandemic has driven an increasing number of parents around the region and the country to give new consideration to homeschooling, spurred by uncertainty about school schedules and aversion to virtual-learning programs. A New York Police Department lieutenant's arduous recovery from the trauma of COVID-19 involved 75 days on a ventilator and unsuccessful treatments at three hospitals, before finally being brought to Penn.

A federal judge has ruled that key components of Gov. Tom Wolf's coronavirus mitigation strategy--such as business closures and limits on gatherings--are unconstitutional.

College-aged students are driving a significant increase in Pennsylvania coronavirus cases this month, Health Secretary Rachel Levine said Monday.

Pennsylvania will receive nearly $2 billion in new funding to help households struggling to make rent or mortgage payments due to the pandemic.

Four PATCO stations closed in March due to the pandemic reopened Monday, and weekday train services will increase to every five to 10 minutes during rush hour.

"Essential" caregivers--people who were actively involved in visiting family members in long-term care before the pandemic--are lobbying for greater access to loved ones in nursing homes.

While federal unemployment programs have changed several times, Pennsylvania's programs remain unaffected. Here's how to apply for unemployment benefits in Pennsylvania.

COVID-19 vaccine trials are calling for more Black and Latino volunteers but recruiting minorities for clinical trials has long been challenging because of the history of racist abuses in medical research.

What's going on in your county? We organized recent coverage of the coronavirus pandemic by local counties mentioned in the stories to make it easier for you to find the info you care about.

The coronavirus has swept across the Philadelphia region and cases continue to mount. The Inquirer and Spotlight PA are compiling geographic data on tests conducted, cases confirmed, and deaths caused by the virus. Track the spread here.

Tracking the growth of homeschooling is difficult. In Pennsylvania, officials say they don't have data for the current school year, while in New Jersey, the state doesn't track it at all. But people connected with the homeschool community say they've seen a surge in interest. Advocates consider Pennsylvania among the most highly regulated states for homeschoolers, with state-mandated subjects and standardized test requirements. Parents must have their children assessed by a certified homeschool evaluator each year. Read more here.

Yvan Pierrelouis spent 75 days on a ventilator, and for the past two months, has contended with an arduous physical and emotional recovery from the trauma of COVID-19. While the New York City police lieutenant lay unconscious, he was treated at three hospitals, finally being brought to Penn, where his daughter works as a nurse. The 59-year-old told my colleague Jason Laughlin that he's always been a fighter. "I'm an immigrant you know," he said. "That's why I work so hard for my children to be better than me."

The quarantine safety bubbles we built for our families during the summer months are disintegrating as schools reopen. Is it risky to socialize with parents whose kids are in some kind of physical school? My colleague Elizabeth Wellington shares advice for how to understand your risk, and avoid isolating your friends who have children.

Despite the pandemic, this South Jersey banquet facility found a way to help Eagles fans celebrate the first game of the season.

# Life & Style

## Paris Hilton says she 'feels free' after YouTube documentary

**NEW YORK** (AP)—There's a scene in a new documentary about Paris Hilton, where the so-called socialite is speaking with former classmates from a Utah boarding school. They joke about how on her reality series "The Simple Life," Hilton pretended to be clueless over many things— including how to perform any sort of manual labor.

One bluntly described it as "some straight-up (expletive)," as they all laughed.

"I don't think you had like a high-pitch voice back then," was another observation.

None of this is a surprise to Hilton. What's revealed in "This is Paris," which debuted for free Monday on Hilton's YouTube channel, is that the ultra glam, baby-talking young woman whose standard line was "that's hot," was a manufactured caricature not just for fame but self-protection, too.

Hilton

Hilton says as a teen she got into the nightlife scene and would sneak out and go to clubs while her family lived at the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York. Her exasperated parents sent her away to various programs to straighten out. There was an outdoor wilderness camp where Hilton and another girl tried to escape. Hilton claims they were caught and beaten in front of others as punishment.

When she was 17, Hilton was finally sent to what she describes as "the worst of the worst": Provo Canyon School in Utah.

"This is the only place where it's impossible to run away. So it's basically like that one place that they all talk about at the other places saying, 'If you run away or you're bad, you're going to be sent to Provo,'" said Hilton.

She stayed at Provo for 11 months and says while there, she was abused mentally and physically, claiming staff would beat her, force her to take unknown pills, watch her shower and send her to solitary confinement without clothes as punishment.

The 39-year-old says the treatment was so "traumatizing" that she suffered nightmares and insomnia for years.

"We are aware of a new documentary referencing Provo Canyon School (PCS). Please note that PCS was sold by its previous ownership in August 2000. We therefore cannot comment on the operations or patient experience prior to that time," the school said in a statement on its website.

Attempts to find the previous owners for comment were unsuccessful.

## Stars reunite for 'Princess Bride' Democratic fundraiser

**MADISON, Wis.** (AP)—For those who find it "inconceivable" for President Donald Trump to serve a second term, Wisconsin Democrats offered a star-packed live-streamed script reading of "The Princess Bride" to help Joe Biden's campaign in the key battleground state.

The original cast of the beloved 1987 film reunited Sunday, along with guest stars including Whoopi Goldberg, Eric Idle of Monty Python and Josh Gad, and all the money raised benefited Wisconsin Democrats. After the reading, comedian Patton Oswalt moderated a Q&A with cast members

It only took a $1 donation to gain access to the stream but donations averaged $27 going into the event. Party spokesman Phil Shulman said Monday that he doesn't know how much was raised in total.

Wisconsin Democratic Party Chairman Ben Wikler called it the biggest grassroots fundraiser the party has ever held. It comes just four days before much of the cast of the TV sitcom "Parks and Recreation" were planning to reunite for a virtual event to encourage absentee voting in Wisconsin.

## Margaret Atwood honored with Dayton Literary Peace Prize

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Author Margaret Atwood thinks an American defiant streak is the country's defense against the kind of nightmarish totalitarian future she depicts for the United States in "The Handmaid's Tale."

"I would bet on American orneriness and refusal to line up," she told The Associated Press. "So I don't think you're going to get people marching in lockstep easily. ... You could get it, but it would be hard."

She illustrated with a joke about the difference between her fellow Canadians and Americans:

"How do you get 100 Canadians out of a swimming pool.?" she said; pausing for the response "How?"

"OK, you Canadians, out of the swimming pool!"

But for 100 Americans? "OK, you Americans, for the 40th time, out of the swimming pool!"

Dayton Literary Peace Prize officials announced Monday that Atwood is this year's winner of a lifetime achievement award that celebrates literature's power to foster peace, social justice and global understanding. The Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award is named for the late U.S. diplomat who brokered the 1995 Bosnian peace accords reached in the Ohio city.

AP

In this Sept. 10, 2019, file photo, Canadian author Margaret Atwood holds a copy of her book "The Testaments," during a news conference in London.

Atwood—a prolific writer of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, essays, comic books and, as of late, tweets—in recent years has drawn a new round of acclaim for her bestselling 1985 novel of a dystopian future in which women are subjugated after an overthrow of the U.S. government.

Some readers of "The Handmaid's Tale" saw in the leaders of authoritarian Gilead similarities to the rise of Republican Donald Trump to president in the 2016 election. The television adaptation on Hulu starring Elisabeth Moss generated yet more commentary, and women dressed in red cloaks and white bonnets, as the handmaids were depicted in the book and TV series, have shown up at political demonstrations.

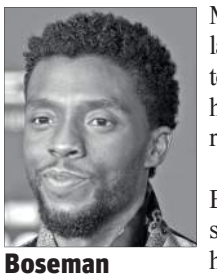
Atwood said sales have gone up around earlier elections, but they "really went up" after the 2016 election and then they "really, really went up" when the Hulu series launched in 2017. The series has been a popular and critical success.

"Lucky for me, it's well done," said Atwood, who did a brief cameo in which she delivered a slap to Moss' Offred character. "I'm quite aware of where it could have gone off the trolley tracks quite badly."

## Chadwick Boseman buried near South Carolina hometown

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Chadwick Boseman was buried near his South Carolina hometown six days after he died at his home in Los Angeles, according to a death certificate obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

The "Black Panther" star was laid to rest Sept. 3 at Welfare Baptist Church Cemetery in Belton, South Carolina, about 11 miles from Boseman's hometown of Anderson, the Los Angeles County Certificate showed. Anderson held a public memorial for Boseman a day later.



Boseman

Boseman died at his home near Griffith Park in Los Angeles on Aug. 28, the record said.

The immediate cause was listed as multiple organ failure, with the underlying cause of colon cancer, which his family said previously that he had been diagnosed with four years earlier.

Boseman had surgery to remove the colon cancer in 2016 after his diagnosis, and in March of this year had laparoscopic surgery to remove cancer that had metastasized, the record showed.

The document lists Boseman's profession as "artist," and his industry as entertainment.

Very few outside of his family knew that Boseman, who played "Black Panther" in four Marvel movies and also starred in the Jackie Robinson biopic "42," had been battling colon cancer when he died at age 43.

## Early lesson in social graces helps overcome initial shyness

DEAR ABBY: When I was a young adult, I had difficulty speaking with strangers. I recall, some years later, attending a party in honor of someone I truly admired. Most of the people there didn't know each other.

Someone had the bright idea for each of us to tell how we knew the honoree. We went around the circle describing our connection to the person. This not only kept the spotlight on the honoree, but it was a great icebreaker. I found myself interested in several of the folks there, and it gave me fodder to follow up with questions for them when we began to mingle.

I learned a valuable lesson that night. Curiosity is wonderful, and as you have pointed out, people like to talk about themselves. Now when I'm in a room full of strangers, I find it easier to smile and ask, "How do you know Susie?" or, "What brings you to this event?" I am no longer shy about attending gatherings where I won't know anyone. I actually like meeting new folks.

Abby, thank you for your column and for offering your booklet that teaches people how to be more comfortable in social situations. I'm sure more than a few of your readers need it.

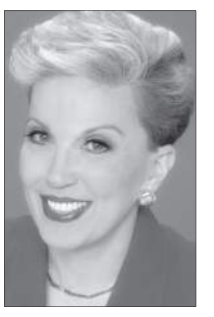
MIXING AND MINGLING IN NAPA, CALIF.

**DEAR M AND M: You're welcome. No one is born knowing how to be social. Social adeptness is a skill like any other. People don't have to be brilliant or a laugh riot. Part of being social—something you picked up on at that party—is the importance of showing an interest in other people. A smile is an excellent icebreaker, and part of being charming is being a good listener.**

**Of course, you should cultivate your own interests so you will have something to add to a conversation. My booklet "How To Be Popular" contains many useful tips for polishing social skills for people of all ages -- how to approach others, what to say and what not to say. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus a check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Good conversationalists prioritize what others have to say rather than feel pressured to fill the air with the sound of their own voices. And remember: Most people can focus on only one thing at a time. So forget about yourself and concentrate on the OTHER person. If you try it, you'll find that it works like a charm.**

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

**DEAR ABBY:** Why does my boyfriend always expect me to help him with his home repairs when I don't live there and don't plan to for a long while? I live in my own house, and I don't ask him to come help me fix a downed fence. How should I handle this situation?

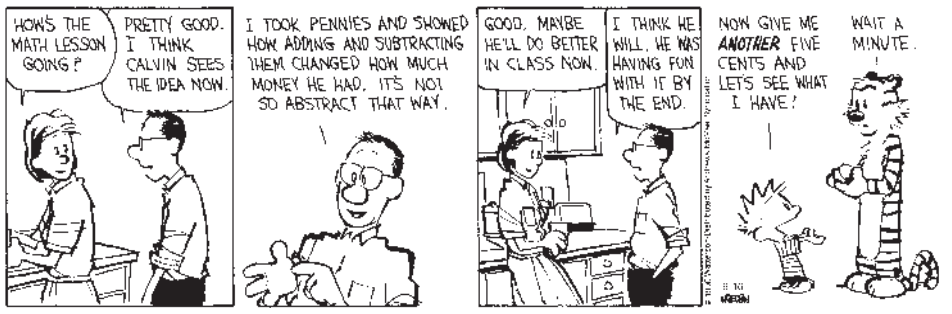
FIXIN' TO ARGUE IN TEXAS

**DEAR FIXIN': Do not "argue." If you prefer not to help your boyfriend with his home repairs, tell him you have other plans. (And if you don't have any but don't want to be conscripted, MAKE some.)**

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW'S THE MATH LESSON GOING?
PRETTY GOOD. I THINK CALVIN SEES THE IDEA NOW.
I TOOK PENNIES AND SHOWED HOW ADDING AND SUBTRACTING THEM CHANGED HOW MUCH MONEY HE HAD. IT'S NOT SO ABSTRACT THAT WAY.
GOOD. MAYBE HE'LL DO BETTER IN CLASS NOW.
I THINK HE WILL. HE WAS HAVING FUN WITH IT BY THE END.
NOW GIVE ME ANOTHER FIVE CENTS AND LET'S SEE WHAT I HAVE!
WAIT A MINUTE.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO MY BACK HAS A LITTLE HAIR ON IT. BIG WHOOP.
A LITTLE? IT'S LIKE A SHAG CARPET!!
WELL, I'M NOT PAYING TO HAVE IT WAXED. THAT'S SILLY.
HOW MUCH DUCT TAPE DO WE HAVE AT HOME?
SIXTEEN ROLLS. I'M RUNNING LOW.
9-16

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS NEWS ANCHOR IS REALLY GOOD. YOU CAN TELL BY HOW SHE PAUSES WHEN READING THE TELEPROMPTER FOR JUST THE RIGHT LENGTH OF TIME.
AND WHEN SHE TILTS HER HEAD IN THAT ADORABLE WAY WHEN DESCRIBING A HURRICANE.
THE WIND IS VERY WINDY.
SHE MAKES DISASTERS SO INTRIGUING.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

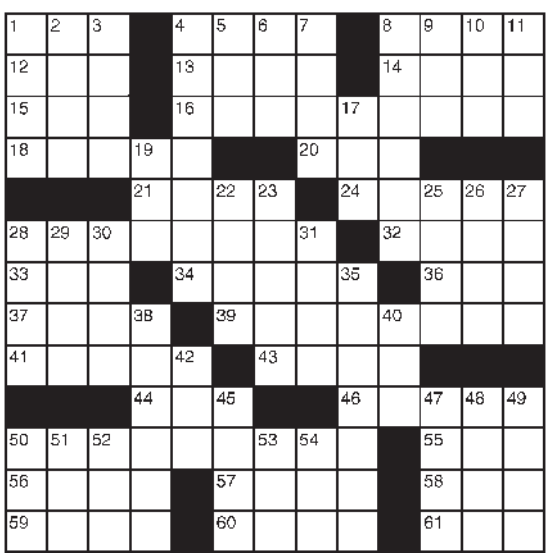
**ACROSS**
1 eBay offer
4 Transmit
8 Rowboat needs
12 Sports drink suffix
13 Eastern bigwig
14 Run off
15 Short do
16 Order preserver
18 Donovan of "Clueless"
20 Bankroll
21 Mast
24 Taxi costs
28 Lefty
32 Egg part
33 Mess up
34 Sub detector
36 Mao — -tung
37 Flair
39 Buzzing carpenter's tool
41 "Blonde on Blonde" singer Bob
43 "Peter Pan" pooch
44 Spell-off
46 Glowing coal
50 Abraded
55 Wish otherwise
56 Shrek, for one
57 Teeny bit
58 Metal source
59 Sudan neighbor
60 Snitch
61 Stir-fry pan

**DOWN**
1 Innocent one
2 "American —"
3 Mazar of "Younger"
4 High-ranking angels
5 Ostrich's kin
6 Goose egg
7 Sketched
8 When nothing goes right
9 100%
10 Irish actor Stephen
11 Stitch
17 Klutz
19 Bygone jet
22 Per person
23 Wouldn't shut up
25 Decays
26 Supermodel Benitez
27 Distort
28 Future flower
29 Paris airport
30 Russian river
31 Baba — (Gilda Radner character)
35 Subscription extension
38 Arrested
40 Zodiac animal
42 Born
45 Tend texts
47 Forehead
48 Franc replacer
49 Stink
50 Sinbad's bird
51 "This tastes terrible!"
52 Bikini half
53 Shad product
54 Pac. counterpart

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | U | M | ■ | A | F | E | M | ■ | P | H | D |
| N | E | R | O | ■ | X | E | N | A | ■ | Y | E | E |
| D | A | N | D | E | ■ | I | O | N | ■ | G | M | A |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | F | V | F | R | ■ | C | U | M | ■ | N |
| S | J | C | R | E | ■ | ■ | S | A | R | A | ■ | ■ |
| I | S | O | N | ■ | M | E | L | V | I | L | L | E |
| M | E | ■ | ■ | L | Y | C | E | E | ■ | I | A | N |
| I | D | I | T | A | R | O | D | ■ | T | O | N | Y |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | L | I | S | A | ■ | ■ | S | A | N | K | A |
| S | A | L | S | A | ■ | I | T | T | Y | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | M | I | ■ | G | A | Z | I | L | L | I | O | N |
| C | O | O | ■ | N | O | O | N | ■ | O | P | E | N |
| S | S | N | ■ | A | ■ | D | A | ■ | R | O | D | E |

Yesterday's answer 9-16



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Nick Jonas, 28; Kyla Pratt, 34; Alexis Bledel, 39; Amy Poehler, 49.

Happy Birthday: Stop procrastinating and start doing. You are on the threshold of something awesome and need to pick up the pace and finish what you are pursuing. Don't complicate matters with issues you cannot control. Sidestep anything that could mess with your mind. Stay focused on what you want to accomplish, and success will follow. Your numbers are 9, 16, 24, 28, 32, 34, 43.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Take a moment to digest what's happening around you before deciding to jump into the mix and take action. A reserved approach will put you in a much better position to negotiate on your behalf. Look at the big picture. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* A change doesn't have to be drastic, but it does need to make sense and encourage better days ahead. Refuse to let your emotions take over and ruin a good thing. Truth matters if you want long-lasting results. Follow your heart. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* A situation will not be as it appears. Don't act on an assumption, or you will end up in an unsettled place. Back up and channel your energy into personal gain, growth and physical well-being. Be observant, not aggressive. ✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Spend more time on details, truth and making changes that will stand the test of time. Concentrate on partnerships and how you can contribute as a team player. Don't be fooled by someone with big ideas that are risky and impractical. ✪✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Look over your objectives carefully, and make adjustments before sharing your ideas. You want to do your best to gain support, not alienate yourself from those you need to help you put your plans in motion. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stop worrying about what others do; focus on what you want. A physical change should be put on hold until you research the possibilities further. Put your effort and energy into something concrete and conducive to getting ahead. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Quiet time will help you sort through uncertainty. Relive some of the moments that haunt you, and you'll discover you are putting too much blame on yourself. Let go of the past, and you'll find the path that leads to happiness. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Size up situations, and prepare to take action. Focus on truth, be fair and commit to what you decide to do next. Change is heading your way, and you want to be prepared to take advantage of whatever opportunity comes your way. ✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Think twice before you share your thoughts with others. Someone will misinterpret what you say and meddle in your personal affairs if you aren't careful. Focus on personal gains and changes without disclosing what you are doing. ✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You can wheel and deal all you want. You are in a prime position to advance as long as you don't let your intellect spar with your intuition. Uncertainty will be what holds you back. Don't overreact or overanalyze. ✪✪✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sit tight when dealing with matters that can influence essential partnerships or physical changes you want to make. Look for alternative options, and do your research before heading down a path that is unfamiliar territory. Love who you are. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* An emotional switch will cause you to change direction. Your feelings will be close to the surface and lead to a place that feels right. Let go of the past, and follow your dreams and the path you desire. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are impulsive, changeable and persistent. You are hardworking and devoted.

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## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 7 | 1 | 3 | | | | |
| | 8 | | | | 5 | | | |
| 2 | 6 | | | | 3 | 9 | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 7 |
| 9 | | | | | | | | 5 |
| 5 | 2 | 8 | | 7 | 4 | 3 | | |
| | | 3 | | 6 | | | | |
| | 1 | | | | 6 | | | |
| | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 1 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 |
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 2 |

Difficulty Level ★★

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HAIR CLIPS — Solution: 9 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | X | T | W | I | S | T | S | S | C | A | R | V | E | D |
| E | R | I | S | E | Y | E | D | I | G | W | A | L | C | E |
| R | E | R | F | P | B | L | T | L | O | V | R | P | I | K |
| U | G | D | E | F | O | S | I | B | I | E | (P) | O | R | C |
| C | N | S | I | H | A | T | F | N | V | A | (I) | L | B | O |
| E | O | I | B | L | T | A | T | L | C | S | (N) | Y | A | L |
| S | L | Z | P | E | S | A | I | C | W | Y | (S) | M | F | S |
| P | R | E | R | T | G | S | E | O | I | L | O | E | R | L |
| N | E | E | E | E | B | S | B | F | L | U | S | R | E | I |
| I | D | N | W | M | S | C | R | U | N | C | H | P | N | A |
| C | E | G | O | O | D | Y | P | T | N | O | L | S | C | T |
| N | D | C | R | T | L | A | T | E | M | S | S | A | H | Y |
| U | A | I | T | L | E | F | H | T | G | N | E | L | Y | N |
| C | E | V | A | C | N | O | C | O | L | O | R | C | I | O |
| S | B | U | T | T | O | N | S | D | E | S | S | E | R | P |

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Accessories, Affix, Amount, Beaded, Bows, Buns, Buttons, Carved, Clasp, Claw, Clay, Color, Combs, Concave, Eyes, Fabric, Fasten, Feather, Felt, Flowers, French, Glitter, Goody, Holds, Length, Locked, Longer, Metal, No-slip, Pins, Plastic, Polymer, Ponytails, Pressed, Pulls, Scrunch, Scunci, Secures, Silver, Size, Slide, Tone, Twists, Types, Vintage

**Yesterday's Answer: Pancakes**

Treasuries 24 through 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

# Walker, Butler waited years for East finals

AP

In this Dec. 4, 2019 file photo, Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler, left, battles for the loose ball against Boston Celtics guard Kemba Walker during the first half of an NBA game in Boston.

**FLORIDA** (AP)—Kemba Walker and Jimmy Butler entered the NBA on the same night.

They've paid their dues since the 2011 NBA draft. Butler is a five-time All-Star, Walker a four-time selection. Walker has the better scoring numbers, Butler the better defensive numbers. Butler leads with a style that's often erroneously perceived to be gruff, Walker likes shows a lot more emotion.

And both went to new homes in the summer of 2019, looking for something better. Here they are: For the first time, Walker and Butler are headed to the Eastern Conference finals.

Walker and the third-seeded Boston Celtics take on Butler and the fifth-seeded Miami Heat on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the East title series. Miami is looking for its first East championship since 2014, Boston its first since 2010.

"We all think that we're supposed to be here," Butler said. "And that's the way that I think, that's the way that I love, the way that our guys think as well. Because I think confidence and your mental (approach) is the majority of this thing. ... Going into these games, it's about us. We're in control of our destiny right now."

The Celtics could say the same, of course.

They went 2-1 against Miami in the regular season, swept Philadelphia in the first round and then needed seven games to oust reigning champion Toronto in the East semifinals. Walker has faced Miami in the playoffs before, losing in seven games in 2016 when he was in Charlotte, and said he has a respect for Heat coach Erik Spoelstra and the franchise.

"We've just got to be locked in," Walker said. "We've got to do it all for a very long time, especially defensively. Those guys have so many different ways they can score the basketball. We're going to have to be really locked into their shooters, really locked into Jimmy, obviously Bam (Adebayo), who's just a different kind of big who can do pretty much everything. So, we're versatile, but so are they. We're just going to have to figure ways out to get stops consistently."

## Storyline

The NBA will have a new champion and the winner of this first-of-its-kind Eastern Conference finals will have a chance to be it. With Miami ousting league-leading Milwaukee and Boston outlasting defending champion Toronto in the last round, this is the first time neither the No. 1 nor No. 2 seed reached the East finals since the NBA went to the 16-team playoff format in 1984. The No. 5 Heat are bidding to become the lowest-seeded team in the NBA Finals since the New York Knicks were No. 8 in 1999.

Miami is 5-2 all-time in the Eastern Conference finals, winning the last five. The Celtics are in the East finals for the third time in four years. Butler scored 25 or more points in the second half twice in the series against Milwaukee. Boston is allowing 100 points per game in the playoffs, tops in the league. Miami is second at 103.7.

## Key matchup

Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown vs Butler. Tatum showed every bit of his blossoming game in the deciding contest against Toronto, finishing with 29 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists. Brown averaged 26.3 points in the final three games of the series. But now Butler, a defensive stopper on the wings, can take turns trying to cool whichever one has the hotter hand.

## Hayward out for Game 1

Gordon Hayward is expected to play for Boston at some point during the Eastern Conference Finals, but that some point will not be Game 1.

Hayward did not practice with the Boston Celtics on Monday and the team has ruled him out for Game 1.

Hayward suffered a grade III ankle sprain in the first game of the playoffs against Philadelphia and has been out ever since. He left the bubble for a while to get treatment, but he is back with the team and getting closer to a return. The initial timeline was at least a month and we are fast approaching 30 days.

Hayward could be Boston's X-factor in the conference finals. He would give the Celtics another versatile player—along with Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum—who can create his own shot and knock down open looks. Throw in Kemba Walker, and Hayward would be the fourth scoring option for Boston, which makes the Celtics deep and difficult to defend. Hayward also spent time guarding Butler during the regular-season matchups.

Hayward's return date for this series is unclear, but if he is close to his vintage self it is a considerable boost for Boston in what will be a tight, challenging series.

# *Clippers, Nuggets set to decide matters in Game 7*

**FLORIDA** (AP)—Denver started its season by talking about winning a championship way back in training camp, knowing very well that few would believe in the Nuggets' chances.

The doubters fueled them then.

The doubters still fuel them now—even though they're one win from the Western Conference finals. Game 7 awaits the Nuggets and Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night, with the winner headed to the West title series against the Los Angeles Lakers.

"Everybody can't wait for the L.A. Western Conference finals," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said Monday. "But there's a little city in Colorado called Denver, and we're trying to do our part to make some noise and kind of further cement our position in the Western Conference and NBA hierarchy because we feel we belong there."

It's tough to argue. The Nuggets were down 3-1 to Utah in the first round and advanced; they were down 3-1 to the Clippers this series and are still at Walt Disney World, now 5-0 in elimination games so far this season. Win Tuesday, and they'll become the first team in NBA history to successfully erase a pair of 3-1 deficits in the same season—or the same decade, even.

And they rallied from 16 points down to win Game 5, then 19 points down to win Game 6. Nikola Jokic controlled the game at both ends in the second half, and Denver has plenty of life headed into its fourth consecutive Game 7—two last year, two this year.

"When I see Nikola emotional and yelling and screaming and pounding his chest, I know we're in a good place," Malone said.

The Clippers have never been to the conference finals; they've had seven chances to get there in their franchise history, going 0-7 in those games.

A year ago, Kawhi Leonard hit the first buzzer-beating, game-winning Game 7 shot in NBA history, lifting Toronto past Philadelphia and into the East finals—on its way to winning the title. The Clippers hope history repeats itself, starting Tuesday.

"Oh, he's unshakable," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "Kawhi, you can't guarantee he'll play well or not because he's human and all players are. But you know the moment won't be too big. That's the one thing —with him, you just know that. So, that's comforting to know that."

## Lakers aim to keep 'cadence'

The Lakers will attempt to keep their rhythm, or their "cadence," as coach Frank Vogel called it, while they take five days off before playing in the Western Conference finals opener.

They have been down this road before—when the Lakers dispatched the Portland Trail Blazers in five games in the first round and had to wait six days before playing the Houston Rockets, who beat the Oklahoma City Thunder in a seven-game series. The Lakers lost Game 1 to the Rockets but won the next four in the second round.

Now the Lakers await the winner of the tense series between the Clippers and Denver Nuggets that's tied at 3-3 and will be determined Tuesday night.

The Lakers practiced Monday, will have Tuesday off, and then will practice Wednesday and Thursday to prepare for the opponent they will face beginning Friday night at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

"It's definitely a challenge, there's no doubt about that," Vogel said during a videoconference Monday. "And the message with our group today is: You're either getting better or you're getting worse. And we not only want to stay sharp, we want to get better every time we step on the basketball court. So that's got to be your focus. But at the same time, you're just trying to get in enough work to stay in rhythm, keep your conditioning, but still take advantage of rest.

"We're going to have a plan this week of trying to stay in the cadence of playing every other day, so we had a live practice today, off tomorrow, live practice Wednesday, and then Thursday's practice will be a no-contact practice. Just preparation-oriented. So just trying to keep that cadence and, again, manage the time off to stay in shape and stay in rhythm."

"Whoever wins, wins. And we'll be ready for both," Vogel said. "Obviously, when there was a 3-1 lead, you start looking at … at least my assistant coaches started looking at the Clippers more, preparing for them because they were closer to the finish line. But obviously we're preparing for both teams the whole way through. And you know, I don't get frustrated. Whenever the results come in, we'll be ready to go."

# Padres top Dodgers to tighten NL West

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Dinelson Lamet outpitched Clayton Kershaw, and rookie Jorge Ona hit a go-ahead double in a five-run seventh inning to lead the San Diego Padres to their eighth straight win, 7-2 against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Monday night in the opener of a series between the NL's top two teams.

The Padres cut the Dodgers' lead in the NL West to 1 1/2 games. Trent Grisham added some spice to the rivalry when he hit a tying home run off Kershaw in the sixth and said something to the Dodgers' dugout as he headed for home. The Padres have won 12 of 14.

Lamet (3-1) got the victory thanks to a seventh-inning outburst that chased Kershaw (5-2). Lamet matched his season strikeout high with 11 while holding the Dodgers to one run and three hits while walking only two.

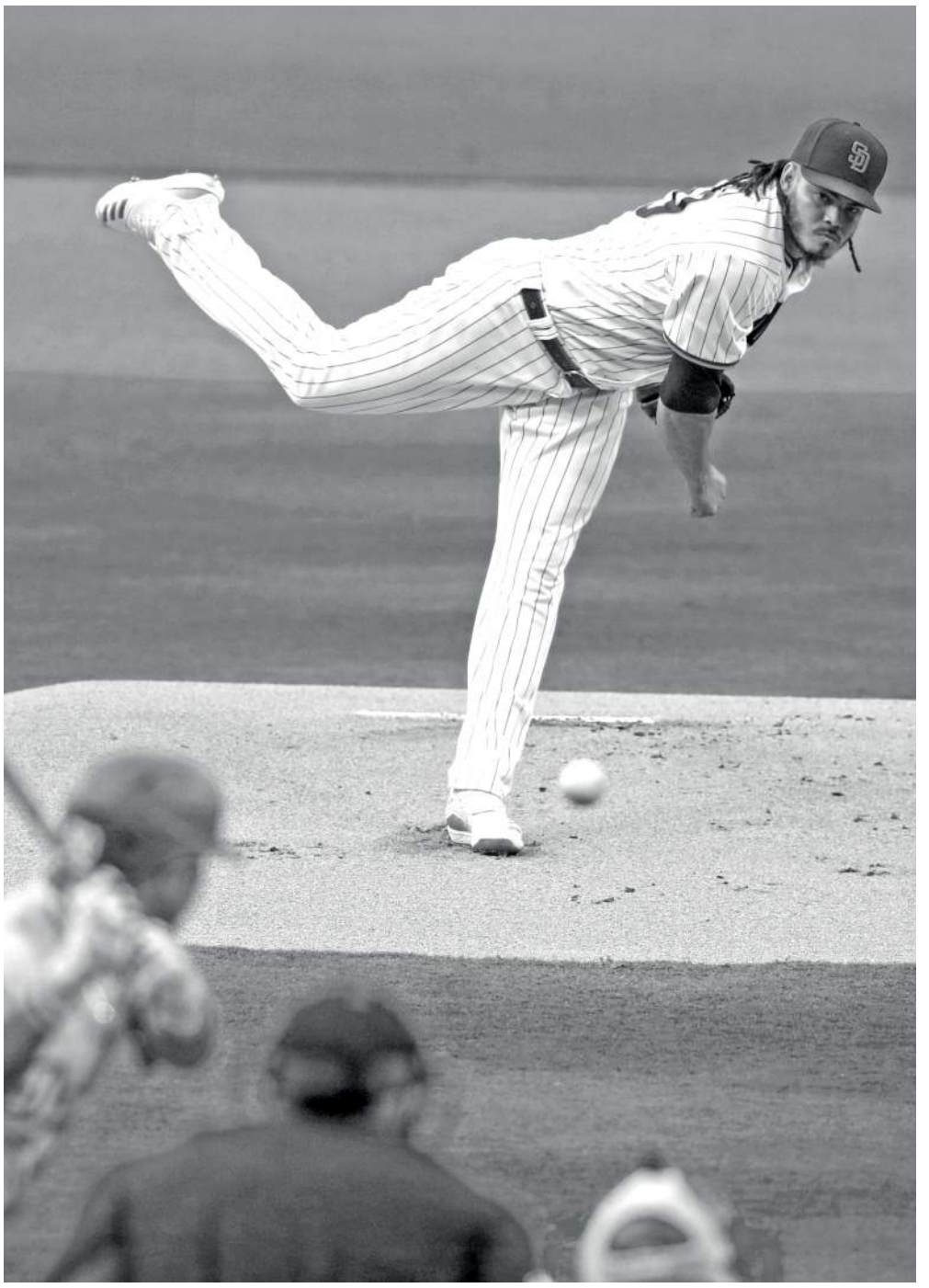
Wil Myers added a solo homer in the eighth, his 13th.

Myers hit a leadoff single and Jurickson Profar had a one-out base hit to chase Kershaw in the seventh. Ona greeted Pedro Baez by lofting a double down the left-field line to give San Diego a 2-1 lead, and the Padres kept adding on.

Pinch-hitter Greg Garcia hit a grounder to first baseman Max Muncy, who couldn't decide whether to throw home or touch first, allowing Profar to score. Grisham hit a grounder to Muncy, who tried to get Garcia at second but threw the ball into left field for an error that allowed Ona to score. Manny Machado hit a bases-loaded RBI single, and Austin Nola's fielder's choice brought in the final run of the inning.

Kershaw allowed three runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings. He struck out nine and walked none.

The left-hander was cruising with a two-hit shutout before Grisham homered to right field leading off the sixth to tie it at 1. Grisham posed for a second, looking toward the Padres' dugout, before beginning his trot. He said something to the Dodgers' dugout just before hopping onto the plate. It was his ninth.



AP
San Diego Padres starting pitcher Dinelson Lamet, top, delivers to Los Angeles Dodgers' Mookie Betts in the first inning of a baseball game Monday, Sept. 14, 2020, in San Diego.

The Padres had a prime chance against Kershaw an inning earlier when rookie Jake Cronenworth hit a leadoff double. But Kershaw got Profar to fly out and then struck out rookies Ona and Jorge Mateo.

The Dodgers broke through against Lamet in the third when Austin Barnes walked with one out, went to third as Mookie Betts flared a double down the right-field line and scored on Corey Seager's groundout.

### White Sox 3, Twins 1

Adam Engel delivered a tie-breaking pinch-hit single in the eighth inning, and the White Sox increased their lead in the AL Central.

Chicago opened its pivotal four-game set against Minnesota with its ninth win in 10 games. The White Sox (31-16) moved two games ahead of the second-place Twins (30-19).

Twins reliever Taylor Rogers (1-3) walked Yoan Moncada and Luis Robert with no outs in the eighth. Engel then made it 2-1 with a single to center. After Nick Madrigal lined out, Tim Anderson added an RBI double off the fence in left.

### Mariners 6, Athletics 5, Game 1
### Athletics 9, Mariners 0, Game 2

Mike Minor tossed a two-hitter, Jake Lamb doubled and homered in his first game after signing with Oakland, and the Athletics earned a doubleheader split.

Seattle erased a 5-0 deficit in its Game 1 win, scoring twice in the sixth inning with two outs to stay on the heels of Houston in the AL West. Seattle is 1+ games behind the Astros for second.

The games were played with a haze of smoke hovering above the field at T-Mobile Park, even with the retractable roof of the stadium closed. Wildfires on the West Coast have suffocated much of the Pacific Northwest with unhealthy air conditions that brought into question whether the games would even be played.

Minor (1-5) picked up his first victory of the season in his third start since being acquired by the A's from Texas. Jimmy Yacabonis (0-1) was charged with the loss.

### Marlins 6, Phillies 2

Pablo Lopez pitched seven innings of one-run ball with some help from right fielder Matt Joyce, and Miami won Game 7 of its marathon series against Philadelphia.

The series, the majors' longest in the regular season in 53 years, included three makeup games and two doubleheaders. The Marlins won five of the seven games, including the final three, to move into second place in the NL East, 1 1/2 games ahead of Philadelphia.

Lopez (4-4) allowed three hits and retired his final 13 batters. He was helped by two over-the-shoulder basket catches on the warning track by a retreating Joyce, who robbed Scott Kingery and Jean Segura.

### Reds 3, Pirates 1, Game 1
### Reds 9, Pirates 4, Game 2

Mike Moustakas hit a big three-run homer in the fifth inning, and the Reds finished a doubleheader sweep.

Moustakas drove in Shogo Akiyama and Eugenio Suarez with a two-out shot to center off Nik Turley (0-2). Pittsburgh had just taken a 4-3 lead on rookie Ke'Bryan Hayes' two-run shot with two out in the top half of the inning.

In the opener, rookie Tyler Stephenson hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning.

### Brewers 2, Cardinals 1, Game 1
### Cardinals 3, Brewers 2, Game 2

Paul DeJong knocked in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the ninth inning as the Cardinals salvaged a doubleheader split.

Both games went to extra innings after being scheduled for seven. In the opener, Keston Hiura hit a sacrifice fly to score Avisail Garcia with the winning run in the eighth as the Brewers rallied for the win.

In the second game, DeJong hit a liner off Justin Topa (0-1) that barely eluded the reach of shortstop Orlando Arcia and went into left field to score Tommy Edman from third.

### Orioles 14, Braves 1

DJ Stewart hit the first of three Baltimore homers in a nine-run third inning, and the Orioles stopped a five-game losing streak.

After winning three of four in Washington to extend their NL East lead to a season-high 3 1/2 games, the Braves were handed their most lopsided defeat of the year, enabling second-place Miami to shave a game off the margin.

A solo home run by Freddie Freeman was the extent of Atlanta's offense over seven innings against Jorge Lopez (2-0).

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

| East | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 30 | 17 | .638 | 0.0 |
| Toronto | 26 | 20 | .565 | 3.5 |
| NY Yankees | 26 | 21 | .553 | 4.0 |
| Baltimore | 21 | 26 | .447 | 9.0 |
| Boston | 17 | 31 | .354 | 13.5 |
| **Central** | | | | |
| Chi White Sox | 31 | 16 | .660 | 0.0 |
| Minnesota | 30 | 19 | .612 | 2.0 |
| Cleveland | 26 | 21 | .553 | 5.0 |
| Detroit | 20 | 26 | .435 | 10.5 |
| Kansas City | 20 | 28 | .417 | 11.5 |
| **West** | | | | |
| Oakland | 30 | 18 | .625 | 0.0 |
| Houston | 23 | 24 | .489 | 6.5 |
| Seattle | 22 | 26 | .458 | 8.0 |
| LA Angels | 20 | 28 | .417 | 10.0 |
| Texas | 17 | 30 | .362 | 12.5 |

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

| East | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atlanta | 28 | 20 | .583 | 0.0 |
| Miami | 24 | 21 | .533 | 2.5 |
| Philadelphia | 23 | 23 | .500 | 4.0 |
| NY Mets | 21 | 26 | .447 | 6.5 |
| Washington | 17 | 28 | .378 | 9.5 |
| **Central** | | | | |
| Chi Cubs | 28 | 20 | .583 | 0.0 |
| St. Louis | 21 | 21 | .500 | 4.0 |
| Cincinnati | 23 | 26 | .469 | 5.5 |
| Milwaukee | 21 | 25 | .457 | 6.0 |
| Pittsburgh | 14 | 32 | .304 | 13.0 |
| **West** | | | | |
| LA Dodgers | 33 | 15 | .688 | 0.0 |
| San Diego | 32 | 17 | .653 | 1.5 |
| San Francisco | 23 | 24 | .489 | 9.5 |
| Colorado | 21 | 25 | .457 | 11.0 |
| Arizona | 17 | 31 | .354 | 16.0 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Messi remains world's richest soccer player

**LONDON**—Lionel Messi was denied a potentially money-spinning move away from Barcelona this month after a contract-dispute, but the Argentine maestro remains the world's richest soccer player.

According to a list compiled by Forbes, Messi's total earnings this year are $126 million —$92 million from his salary and $34 million in endorsements.

Not surprisingly Cristiano Ronaldo comes in second although earnings of $117 million will soften the blow for the Juventus forward, as will his status as the most followed soccer player in the world on social media.

Neymar comes in third on the Forbes list ($96 million) with his Paris St Germain teammate, 21-year-old Kylian Mbappe up in fourth spot ($42 million).

The Premier League remains the world's richest domestic soccer league but only two of its outfield players feature in the top 10 of the wealth table—Liverpool's title-winning striker Mohamed Salah in fifth spot ($37 million) and Manchester United's midfielder Paul Pogba ($34 million) in sixth. Pogba's team mate, keeper David de Gea ($27 million) is 10th.

Barcelona's Antoine Griezmann was seventh and Real Madrid's Gareth Bale eighth. Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, the only Bundesliga player, in ninth.

Messi reluctantly agreed to stay at Barcelona for another season this month, despite saying in the wake of an 8-2 Champions League defeat by Bayern Munich that he wanted out.

He argued that a clause in his contract stating that a 700 million euros release fee would need to be met for him to join another club was no longer active and that he could leave on a free transfer—a situation that would have allowed him to command astronomical wages from the likes of Manchester City.

Messi, 33, is in the final year of his contract so could leave for free next summer. By staying with the Catalan club, Messi is in line for an $83 million loyalty bonus so it is likely he will continue to top the money charts.

# Snell, Big Ben carry Steelers over Giants

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** (AP)—There was one overriding reason Ben Roethlisberger worked so hard to return from a major elbow injury.

His team.

Roethlisberger, who missed the final 14 games last season after elbow surgery, threw for three scores and the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the New York Giants 26-16 at an empty and eerie MetLife Stadium on Monday night. He also got all the help he could ask for from his defense and backup running back Bennie Snell.

"I am excited we won the game," Roethlisberger said. "I told the guys before the game it is not about me individually. The reason I came back is for these guys, this team. It's a special group of football players, of men, and I am just glad to be a part of it."

A key part of it, along with several defensive plays and Snell's 113 yards on 19 carries—his first 100-yard performance in his second NFL season.

"We have talked openly about the maturation process and things you can expect from a second-year player," coach Mike Tomlin said, "and he's showed signs of that from the very beginning of this process. He is a quality player and one that is maturing and emerging, and one who answered the bell when called upon."

The defense, while not quite on the level of the famed Steel Curtain, was stingy and physical. It held Saquon Barkley to 6 yards on 15 carries, swarming in the backfield nearly all night.

"I have to be better," Barkley said. "I have to be better for the team. We have to get the running game going."

Three Steelers stars got them their first touchdown. All-Pro linebacker T.J. Watt made a clever interception at the New York 36. Roethlisberger beat a blitz with a perfect throw to JuJu Smith-Schuster for a 10-yard second-quarter score. Chris Boswell's extra point hit the upright, leaving them behind 10-9.

They got the lead with 7 seconds remaining in the half as Roethlisberger connected with James Washington, who dived into the end zone for a 13-yard score. Boswell made the PAT this time, and added a 36-yard field goal early in the final quarter. That came following the night's biggest play.

AP

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) throws against the New York Giants during an NFL game, Monday, Sept. 14, 2020, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Even though the Pittsburgh defense broke down as the Giants marched 87 yards on 19 plays in the third quarter, it still came up with a huge stop. Bud Dupree pressured quarterback Daniel Jones as he rolled left from the 4 and deflected his pass. Edge rusher Cam Heyward practically made a fair catch in the end zone for the interception.

"I want to make a play for my team. I saw Bud laying him down," Heyward said. "I tried to make a good play and float to the ball.

"We got to be an opportunistic defense. We got sacks by guys who don't usually get sacks and interceptions by guys who don't usually get interceptions."

Roethlisberger then took Pittsburgh 62 yards for the field goal and a 19-10 lead. He hit Smith-Schuster again for a 10-yard touchdown and a 26-10 lead before New York got a late TD.

Roethlisberger finished 21 of 32 for 229 yards has now thrown for 366 touchdowns, a franchise record, tying Eli Manning for the eighth most in NFL history.

## Titans 16, Broncos 14

For most of Monday night's game, the Tennessee Titans might have wondered if they spent wisely this offseason on Ryan Tannehill.

Tannehill, who had a great season out of nowhere last season after being acquired in a trade with the Miami Dolphins, got a four-year, $118 million deal to remain with the team. It was a questionable deal. Tannehill never had much success with the Dolphins. And for about 55 minutes on Monday night, Tannehill couldn't get much going against a Denver Broncos defense without star pass rusher Von Miller.

Then when it counted most, Tannehill made his money. And he helped get Stephen Gostkowski some redemption.

Tannehill led the Titans on a long scoring drive in the final minutes to save a victory on a sloppy night for both teams. Gostkowski, the longtime Patriots kicker who had missed three field goals and an extra point in his Titans debut, kicked a 25-yard field goal with 17 seconds left to win the game.

## Face coverings

The NFL on Monday reminded team personnel on the sidelines about the COVID-19 requirements for wearing face coverings, saying such carelessness or disregard could put the season "at risk."

There were several games Sunday in which team members other than players did not use face coverings.

Troy Vincent, who oversees the league's football operations, sent a memo to the 32 clubs. He stressed that teams "must remain vigilant and disciplined in following the processes and protocols put in place by not only the league, union and clubs, but also by state and local governments."

After congratulating the teams for overcoming coronavirus challenges and beginning the regular season on time, Vincent strongly cautioned against undoing that work.

He referred to the game-day protocols developed by the league and the NFL Players Association that reflect the advice of infectious disease experts, club medical staffs and local and state governmental regulations.

## JNA

*From Page 20*

"We will be working on improving their skills and techniques, game strategies, and stamina in the next four months," Angeles said.

The group will start their training sessions tomorrow at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. They will also work out with JNA coaches on Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, Nov. 5, 12, and 19, and Dec. 3 and 10.

Meanwhile, the Costales siblings are excited for the chance to train under NMIFA's program and vow to do their best and work with their teammates.

"I feel honored to be a part of the Junior National Academy. I believe it's a good opportunity to make myself a better play and learn more about soccer. I'm thankful to NMIFA for continuing the program even at this time of the pandemic. I expect to enhance my skills and be a better player after this training," the 12-year-old Mark said.

His younger sibling, Kaye, said she will take advantage of the opportunity to train under NMIFA coaches since tournaments are still suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She is also thankful that she gets to spend time on the pitch after school and work on improving her soccer skills," the 11-year-old said.

JNA is one of NMIFA's grassroots programs for players in the 10 to 12 age group. Players selected on the pool are prepared for higher-level competitions and national team training system. JNA is holding another tryout this month and they will be for girls only, as NMIFA is hoping to get enough female players to create a separate pool from the boys.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2019 file photo, Kanoa Football Club's Paul Lizama, left, dribbles in front of TanHoldings Football Club's Kaithlyn Chavez during their U12 game in the NMIFA Youth Spring League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. Lizama made it to the fall class of the Junior National Academy.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

# JNA players show great potential

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
TanHoldings Football Club's Mark Costales, seen here trying to keep the ball away from a Kanoa Football Club defender during their U12 game in last year's NMIFA Youth Spring League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, is among the 26 players selected to train under the Junior National Academy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mark, left, and Kaye Costales pose for a photo after attending a tryout session for the Junior National Academy early this month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Junior National Academy sees a lot of potential from the members of the 2020 fall class and can't wait to engage them in a top-level training system.

The fall class is made of 26 players, who showed commitment and hard work during the series of tryouts conducted by JNA coaches last month and early this month. The select group includes Matansa Football Club's Yutaka Kadokura and Nolan Ngewakl; MP United Football Club's Akeen Edvalson, Taiga Namai-Scoffins, Jack Raho, Moshe Sikkel, and Henry and Stephan Yeom; Paire Football Club's Mary Devine Amog, Phoenix Sapphire Gross, Justidy Mizutani, and Caurie Stafller; Southern United Football Club's Michael Elayda; Wynona Julene Blas; Kanoa Football Club's Valerie Estella, Paul Lizama, Tyrone James Manipon, and Arstin Tagabuel; and TanHoldings Football Club's Kohjiro Goto, Terel Hix, Daniel Sano, Julie Chavez, Matty Angeles, and Kaye and Mark Costales.

"All the players show great potential and we are very excited to coach these newly discovered future talents of the CNMI National Team," JNA head coach Jersh Angeles said.

Angeles added that in selecting the members of the fall class, they considered the players' notable qualities, such as exceptional speed, communication skills, and aggressiveness both on the offensive and defensive end.

See JNA on Page 19

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Juan "Pan" Guerrero, seated second left, seen here posing with fellow Saipan golfers after winning a tournament in the Philippines in 2018, ruled the SGA April Ace event held last Sept. 6 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

# Juan 'Pan' prevails in SGA April Ace tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The winner of the Saipan Golfers Association April Ace title was decided by just one stroke with Juan "Pan" Guerrero edging John "Nanni" Cruz in the Sept. 6 tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Guerrero fired a 40 on the front nine and 40 on the back for a gross 82 and ended up with a net 68 after deducting his 14 handicap. One shot behind with his net 68 was Cruz, an 18-handicapper and posted a 44 in the first nine holes and 43 in the last for a gross 87. Joining Guerrero and Cruz in the Top 3 of the April Ace tournament at the Talafofo golf course were Attorney General Edward Manibusan and Nick Sablan, who had similar net scores of 72. Sablan, a 6-handiccaper, had the lowest gross with his 78 after shooting a 38 on the front nine and 40 on the back. The 7-handicapper Manibusan also registered a 40 on the back nine, but tallied 39 on the front for a gross 79.

Besides winning the third place honors, Manibusan and Sablan also prevailed in the closest to the pin contest with the former doing it on the par-3, 140-yard hole No. 15 and the latter in No. 6—another par-3 hole, but a shorter one at 100 yards. Joe Sablan was the third player to make a closest to the pin shot, getting the feat on the par-3, 184-yard hole No. 12.

In the longest drive competition, Das Krishnan won in No. 7—a par-4, 315-yard hole. Guerrero also triumphed in the same category after ruling the longest hole in the course—the par-5, 563-yard hole No. 11.

With Guerrero taking the April Ace, he is now qualified to join the SGA Ace of Aces. Manibusan (January), Jung Eun Teack (February), and Nick Sablan (March) are the other club championship qualifiers and SGA will continue to hold two tournaments per month to fill up the remaining slots and make up for delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Next up for SGA is the May Ace tournament that will be played on Sept. 20 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Show time is at 8:30am, while tee off is scheduled for 9:30am.